

# *I WANT TO BE* **JESUS**

*Easy-to-Use Scripts*  
*for the Sunday Gospels*

**CAROL CAMP TWORK**



**The Pastoral Center**

*I would like to dedicate this book to  
my parents, Joyce and Bob,  
my husband, Dan,  
and my sister, Sandy.  
You have always believed in me.  
Thank you.*

*Nihil Obstat:*

Reverend James K. Mallett, S.T.L., J.D.  
Censor Liborum, Diocese of Nashville  
20 October 1998

*Imprimatur:*

Most Reverend Edward U. Kmiec, D.D., S.T.L.  
Bishop of Nashville  
23 October 1998

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***Advent***

## ***The Time Is Coming***

Leader: Jesus tells us to always be ready for his return to earth. We must live a good life so that we can always be with Jesus in heaven.

Jesus: When the Son of Man comes, it will be like what happened with Noah. Before the flood. People were eating and drinking and getting married right up until Noah entered the Ark. They were not concerned until the flood came and the water swept them away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes:

Farmer: I was working in a field with another man and I turned around and he was gone! It must have been Jesus!

Woman: I was grinding grain with another woman and I turned around and she was gone! She was taken up to heaven!

Jesus: Stay awake! You do not know when your Lord is coming. Remember the lesson of the house owner.

House owner: If I knew that a thief was coming tonight to break into my house, I would stand guard and make sure he could not get in.

Jesus: You must be ready in that same way. The Son of Man is coming at the time you least expect.

*How do you prepare for the coming of Christ?*

*When do you prepare for the coming of Christ?*



## ***Be Ready!***

Leader: Advent is a time of preparation and waiting. Jesus tells us we must always be ready, because we don't know when he will return.

Jesus: Watch out and be ready. You don't know when the time will come. It is like what happens when a person goes away for a while and places his servants in charge of everything. The Master says,

Master: I am going away for a while. You must protect my family and my property. Be on guard and be alert. Be ready when I return. (Master leaves.)

First Servant: We really don't know exactly when the master of the house will return.

Second Servant: It could be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or in the morning.

Third Servant: Don't let him find you asleep.

Fourth Servant: We must all be alert.

*What is hard about waiting?*

*What is hard about waiting for Jesus to return?*

## ***Keep Watch***

Leader: Advent is a time of waiting, a time of preparation. We are preparing our hearts and our souls for our Savior. In the gospel today, Jesus tells his disciples that there will be many signs before he comes again.

Jesus: Before the Son of Man comes in glory, there will be many signs.

First Disciple: What kind of signs?

Jesus: The sun, the moon, and the stars will do strange things.

Second Disciple: That will frighten everyone to see strange things in the sky.

Jesus: The seas and the tides will frighten the people and they won't know what to do. Some will faint in fear. Every power in the sky will be shaken.

Third Disciple: I can't imagine living through all of that.

Jesus: After that time, the Son of Man will come in the clouds in glory. When this happens, stand up straight and be brave because you will be free.

Fourth Disciple: What should we do now to prepare for this?

Jesus: Don't spend all your time eating and drinking too much. Don't worry about your life. You must be careful or the last day will spring on you like a trap.

Fifth Disciple: When will this happen?

Jesus: The last day will come as a surprise to everyone on earth. Pray that only good will happen to you. Pray that the Son of Man will be pleased with you.

*What do you think the world will be like right before Jesus comes again?*

*What should we pray for?*

## ***A Herald in the Desert***

Leader: John the Baptist calls on people to change the way they live. They must prepare for the coming of God by living a good life.

Narrator: When it was the appointed time, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea.

John the Baptist: Reform your lives. The kingdom of God will soon be here.

Narrator: It was John the Baptist that the prophet Isaiah had spoken about when he said,

Voice of Isaiah: Someone is shouting in the desert, "Prepare the road for the Lord. Make a straight path for him."

First Person  
(accepting baptism): John, I am so sorry for my sins.

Second Person: Me too!

First Sadducee: John wears such funny clothes. They look to be made of scratchy camel's hair. He wears a leather belt around his waist and eats grasshoppers and wild honey too.

First Pharisee: I want to be baptized by John.

Second Pharisee: But he tells us to confess our sins! Why? We are people of Israel and Abraham was our forefather! We are special people.

John the Baptist: I see you Sadducees and Pharisees coming to be baptized. You are like a bunch of snakes. Who told you to run from the wrath of God? You must show that you will live a better life. Don't just say that you belong to the family of Abraham. I tell you that God can turn these stones into children of Abraham. Any tree that is not fruitful will be cut down with an ax and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water so you will give up your sins. but someone more powerful than I is coming. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is ready to separate the good grain from the chaff and he will burn the chaff in a fire that will never go out.

*Who is it that is coming to baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire?*

*What does it mean to separate the grain from the chaff?*

## Turn Away From Sin

Leader: In the gospel today, John the Baptist tells us to run away from sin. This was his God-appointed mission as he readied the Jews of Palestine for the coming of Christ.

First Narrator: The Emperor Tiberius was the ruler of that part of the world for fifteen years. Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea, and Herod ruled Galilee. Philip, Herod's brother, ruled Iturea and Trachonitis. Lysanias ruled Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were the Jewish high priests.

Second Narrator: At that time, God spoke to John, Zechariah's son, who lived in the desert. He told John it was time to begin his mission, to prepare the way for the Messiah.

John the Baptist: Turn away from sin! Turn back to God! Be baptized and your sins will be forgiven!

Third Narrator: Isaiah the prophet was writing about John the Baptist in these words:

Writings of Isaiah: Someone is shouting in the desert, make the road ready, for the Lord is coming. Make the road straight! Fill in all the valleys and level all the mountains and hills. Straighten the paths and smooth the rough roads! Then everyone will see God's saving power!

*What do Isaiah's words mean? How can anyone "fill in valleys" or "level mountains"?*

*What is one way you can turn back to God?*

## ***Jesus Begins His Ministry***

Leader: The setting for this gospel reading is the beginning of Jesus' ministry, just after he was baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptist.

Narrator: While he was in prison, John sent a messenger, one of his disciples, to question Jesus.

Messenger: Jesus, John is in jail. He has asked me to come to you with this question: Are you the one who is to come, or are we to look for someone else?

Jesus: Go and tell John what you have heard and seen: the blind can see, cripples can walk, lepers are cured, the deaf can hear, the dead are raised to life, and the poor hear the good news. God will bless those who do not reject me.

Narrator: The messenger went back to tell John what Jesus had said. Then, Jesus spoke to the crowd.

Jesus: What did you go out in the desert to see?

First Person: A tall grass blowing in the wind.

Second Person: Someone dressed in fine clothes.

Jesus: Remember, those who dress in fine clothes live in royal palaces. What about you? What did you go out in the desert to see?

Third Person: A prophet.

Jesus: Yes, John is a prophet and even more than that. In the scriptures, God says, "I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way before you." I tell you that there is no one on this earth who is greater than John the Baptist. But whoever is least in the kingdom of God is greater than John.

*Who is the messenger sent to prepare the way for Jesus?*

*What does Jesus mean when he says that the least in the kingdom of God is greater than John?*

# ***I Am Not Worthy to Unfasten His Sandal***

Leader: The third Sunday in Advent is a day of hope, represented by our lighting of the pink candle on the Advent wreath. In the gospel today, John the Baptist tells us he is not the Messiah, but he is here to help people prepare for the Messiah, who is coming soon.

Narrator: A prophet named John was sent to tell about God's light and to lead all people to follow the light of faith. John wasn't the light himself. He came only to tell about the light.

First Temple Helper

(to John): Who are you?

John the Baptist: Well, I am not the Messiah, if that is what you are asking.

Scribe: Are you Elijah then?

John: No, I am not.

Second Temple Helper: Are you the Prophet?

John: No, I am not.

First Temple Leader: Who are you then? Tell us who you are.

John: I am only someone in the desert shouting, "Get the road ready for the Lord."

Second Temple Leader: Why are you baptizing people if you are not the Messiah, or Elijah, or the Prophet?

John: I use water to baptize. There is one among you that you do not recognize yet. I am not worthy to unfasten his sandal.

*Why would people ask John the Baptist these questions?'*

*What does John mean, "I am not worthy to unfasten his sandal"?*

## ***Give to One Who Needs It***

Leader: In his preaching, John the Baptist tells the crowd to prepare for the Messiah. They have come to him to be baptized and John tells them what it means to lead a good life.

Narrator: A person in the crowd asked John the Baptist,

First Person: What should I do to live a good life?

John the Baptist: Be kind to others. If you have two coats, give one to someone who needs it. If you have food, share it with others also.

Tax Collector: I am a tax collector. I would like to be baptized. What should I do?

John the Baptist: Only charge people the tax that they owe. Do not make them pay any more than that.

Soldier: What about me, a soldier? What should we do?

John the Baptist: Do not bully anyone into paying you money. Do not tell lies about anyone.

Second Person: Do you think John the Baptist is the Messiah?

Third Person: Is he the one we've been waiting for?

John the Baptist: I am baptizing you in water. Someone else is coming who is mightier than I am. I am not worthy to loosen his sandal from his foot. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and the fire. He will separate the husks from the wheat. He will store the wheat in the barn and will throw the husks into the fire that never goes out.

*Besides baptism, what else must we do to live a good life?*

*How are you kind to others?*