

Who Am I Now?

Adding a Little Character to Your Biblical Storytelling

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1. The Man Who Wrestled with God
2. There is always tension between scripture spoken “unadorned” or choosing presentation choices & character choices (activating “intentionality” as part of the performance).
3. Theatrical performance is by nature both vocal and visual (the audience hears and sees).
 - Scripture presentation tends to focus on vocal
 - However, movement (like opening a door), body position (choral or group speaking), and eye placement can add richness and clarity for the audience.

What you hear on Sunday, you forget on Monday ... enter W. Linkugel and D. Berg:

If you **talk only** to a group about a topic

- the recall three hours later is approximately 70%
- three days later you will only be able to remember 10% of what was said

If you **show only** to a group, concepts about a topic

- the knowledge recall three hours later is 72%
- three days later that same group will remember 35%

If you both **tell and show** as a means of speaking

- the audience remembers 85% hours later
- Three days later, an amazing 65% of what was taught was recalled

4. How can we “Show” Scripture (as we obviously “tell”)

- “Embody” – Audiences begin to draw a picture in their own mind - pulling pictures from their own past, their own experiences that, like puzzle pieces, create a personal composite picture of the scripture.
- The audience is emotionally and mentally committing to the story - they "own " the story and it becomes theirs.
- When a Presenter is compelling, audiences respond physically. They will lean forward as if drawn in, their breathing becomes shallow, their eyes dilate and they follow the speaker. These signals mean that the listener's body is “living” the story—committing physically to it in a small way.

5. Voice

- Volume

When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. ***“It’s a ghost,”*** they said and cried out in fear.

1. Close—as in talking close and intimately to someone (still support the voice-not too low)
2. Conversation—volume level that is used in a group conversation
3. Calling- as in calling across the room or auditorium to someone
4. Challenging - volume that relates to someone challenging the universe, God, fate, or an overwhelming number of enemies.

- Pitch -shift between female / male /young / old

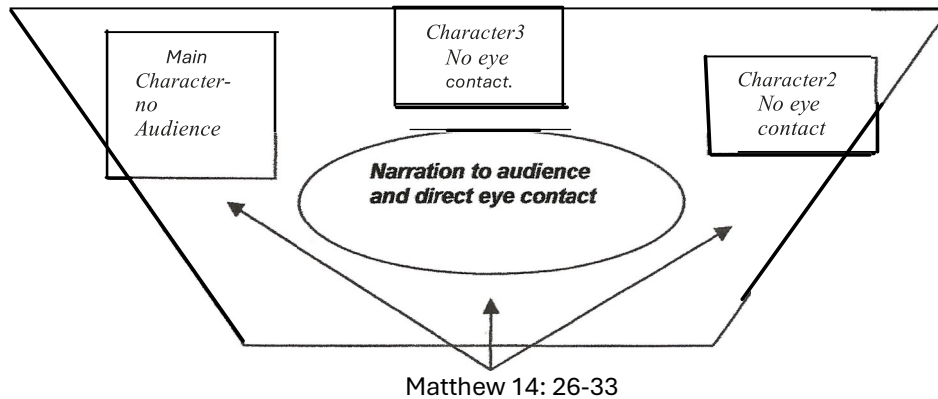
When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.^[a])

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?”

- This Little Light of mine – sing it as you are bleating (like a sheep). This identifies clearly the possible range of notes when you speak.



²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. ***"It's a ghost,"*** they said and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: ***"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."***

²⁸ ***"Lord, if it's you,"*** Peter replied, ***"tell me to come to you on the water."***

²⁹ ***"Come,"*** he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ***"Lord, save me!"***

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. ***"You of little faith,"*** he said, ***"why did you doubt?"***

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, ***"Truly you are the Son of God."***

6. Psalms 135: 6 & 7

⁶The LORD does whatever pleases him,
in the heavens and on the earth,
in the seas and all their depths.

⁷He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth;
he sends lightning with the rain
and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

Matthew 14:26-33 Peter Walks on the Water

But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea,
they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!"
And they cried out in fear.
But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said,
"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you,
command me to come to you on the water."
He said, "Come."

So Peter got out of the boat,
started walking on the water,
and came toward Jesus.

But when he noticed the strong wind,
he became frightened, and,
beginning to sink,
he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him,
saying to him, "You of little faith,
why did you doubt?"

When they got into the boat,
the wind ceased.
And those in the boat worshiped him,
saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."