

**CROWD / NO CROWD**  
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**Purpose:**

There is a difference in following God for His miracles and blessings and following Him in self-denial and obedience to the Fathers will. The many who seek the thrill of the supernatural is a far cry from the few willing to share the agony of sacrifice. Yet, ultimately it is the fellowship of His suffering which creates unbreakable bonds of love.

**Characters:**

This presentation should be done in absolute silence. It requires the cooperation of a fair amount of people, so it is best done by a youth group or a similar group.

**Jesus, Servant Girl, Beggar, Crippled man, Crowd**

**Props:**

*The stage is set in the following manner. Closest to the door is a small table, behind which stands a servant girl. On the table is an opaque vase filled with water, a clear goblet, and a very small plastic vial filled with crushed red food coloring.*

*At the next station is a beggar, with dark sunglasses and a white cane beside him.*

*At the third station is another unfortunate soul, lying on a cot with crutches beside him.*

*The last station, up stage, is a fair sized wooden cross, obscured from view by loose paper maché rocks, and/or gray cloth, bunched up to look like rocky terrain.*

*Behind all this is a good sized 'crowd.'*

Jesus comes in from a side door, accompanied by two "disciples." He slowly moves toward the table, pantomiming a conversation with disciples. When he reaches the table, he stops. The servant girl pours a glass of water from the opaque pitcher. The plastic vial is contained in the fingers of the hand holding the goblet, while the other hand holds the opaque pitcher. The girl offers the water goblet to Jesus, who makes a show of taking it, turning away from her, holding the glass of clear water up to the light, frowning, shaking his head in rejection, and turning to hand the water back to the girl. As soon as she hands him the water in the first place, while he is distracting the audience with his examination of the water, she lets her hand slide over the rim of the pitcher and dumps the food coloring inconspicuously into the pitcher, retaining the vial in the curve of her fingers. When the water is handed back to her, she dumps the water back into the pitcher (which will stir the food coloring). Jesus then holds his hand out for another drink. Seeming suddenly afraid, she pours out, into the clear glass, what has apparently become wine. Jesus takes it from the suddenly frozen girl, acts like he sips it, smiles, sets the glass down on the table, and moves on. He is followed by the girl, the disciples, and several people from the crowd, who gap in astonishment and follow the disciples. All excitedly gesture, point etc., obviously, but silently, discussing the miracle...

As Jesus passes the blind man with the small crowd behind him, the blind man cups his hands to his lips, apparently calling out to Jesus. Jesus turns to him, leans over, says something to him. The blind man nods. Then Jesus stoops as though scooping up dirt, acts as though spitting into his hand and mixing up mud. Then makes a show of wiping the mixture on the eyes of the blind man (*Takes off his glasses first*).

The man opens his eyes in amazement, looks around wildly, falls at Jesus feet, then leaps up and runs to the crowd. There, he grabs people, points to Jesus, points to his eyes, raises his hands in praise, then goes back to Jesus, trailed by several more from the crowd. Same scene as before, with all following and worshiping as Jesus moves on...

When Jesus approaches the lame man, he simply picks up the crutches, tosses them aside, extends a hand to the lame man, and pulls him up on his feet. The lame man takes a couple of tentative steps, then leaps up and goes into the crowd, repeating the antics of the blind man (*Only pointing to his legs*). Several more follow him back up to Jesus. All are worshiping him as Jesus moves on...

As Jesus moves up onto the stage, the crowd flows around him, obscuring him from view. All are lifting their hands, pantomiming laughter and conversation about the miracles. Suddenly, the silent conversation slowly dies. The hands are dropped. Everyone slowly backs away from Jesus, and with heads down, go back to where they came from, leaving the stage totally empty, except for Jesus. As the crowd disperses from him, it reveals him stooped over behind the "rocks". When the stage is empty, Jesus looks up, looks around, shakes his head in sorrow, and allows his shoulders to slump. Then he slowly stands up with the cross over his shoulders, and proceeds on his way, carrying the cross alone, as the light slowly fades.