

TWO WORDS BEFORE BEGINNING



ONE

The book in your hands is one of six. Short volumes all. Think of them as people to meet, not pages to be read. In each, a charcoal sketch is drawn of a person who first appeared on the pages of John's Gospel. Both women and men. Real flesh and blood. All worthy of attention. And each one fully capable of standing on their own two feet.

Beyond this, they all have someone in common. Jesus. The Nazarene. The Christ—he who forever changed the world we live in. Anyway, they all met him. In person. And they talked with him. More than that. Each one had a *conversation with Jesus* about something important to them.

TWO

I suppose something should be said about why 'these six'? Let's just say the selection is subjective. Author's prerogative. I liked them. I wanted to know them. And I learned significant things from each one of them. There are good reasons to think that you will connect with them too. Their struggles are our struggles. Their questions too. In fact, some people are saying there has never been another century to resemble the one these six lived in, until ours came along. And if that is the case, you may just run into yourself by running into them.

At any rate, there came a day when they all ran into Jesus. Of course, he is the only character to emerge in every encounter. I am confident that you will enjoy getting to know him.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



CAST:



PILATE: Roman prefect, a pragmatist, dressed in authoritative robes



JESUS: a criminal, bloodied, with hands bound and clothes torn



CROWD: both the rabble and the religious, strange bedfellows united

SETTING:

Jerusalem. A royal gated courtyard (Latin inscriptions overhead). Horse stalls to one side. Behind, a large municipal building made of stone.

It is early in the morning. Too early. At least for a Roman prefect who was recently, and reluctantly, disturbed by an angry and vicious crowd. The size and strength of the multitude is beyond reason.

At the center of the stage stands the man. Jesus. Alone. The obvious prisoner. And already badly beaten.