



NOW SERVING FRESH DRAMA

# Not That I'm Counting

By Michael Leathers

## **CAST: 4 males**

**Jesus:** Enjoying figs in the shade when His disciples approach with news.

**Peter:** Disciple who believes Jesus' ministry is in trouble without big changes.

**Matthew:** Disciple who's done the research to back up Peter's concerns.

**John:** Disciple who goes along with Peter but doesn't like the confrontation.

## **RUN TIME: 6 minutes**

**PROPS – None required.**

## **STORY**

Jesus is enjoying a peaceful rest one afternoon when He's approached by Peter, who has some dire news about the state of His ministry. Matthew and John are by his side to reinforce his concerns. It seems the crowds have been falling away at an alarming rate. If Jesus doesn't do something soon to reel them back in, His ministry's in danger of collapsing.

## **THEMES**

Readers' theatre. John 6:66. Purpose. Leadership.

# Not That I'm Counting

(Bare stage with four actors, either performing readers' theater style or acting out the parts as they recite their dialogue and narrative)

JESUS

Jesus was enjoying a midafternoon rest under the shade of a tree in a village courtyard when a familiar voice beckoned Him.

PETER

'We need to talk.'

JESUS

Jesus looked up to see Peter strutting toward Him. Everything's so urgent with that man.

MATTHEW

Matthew –

JOHN

-- and John –

MATTHEW

-- we're right behind Peter.

JESUS

'Sure, Pete, what's up?' Jesus stretched His arms over His head, chasing away the temptation to take a quiet nap.

PETER

'It's about the people.'

JESUS

'What about them?'

PETER

'You haven't noticed?'

JESUS

Jesus opened a pouch with a few dried figs in it and offered them to Peter.  
'Noticed what?'

PETER

'They're leaving.' Peter waved his hand to decline the morsels. How could Jesus be interested in eating at a time like this?

JESUS

'And this worries you?'

PETER

'Our numbers are way down. Not that I'm counting. But all you gotta do is look around.'

JESUS

Jesus inspected one of the figs and held the pouch out to the other two disciples.  
'Matt, John,' He said. 'They're really good.'

MATTHEW

Matthew shook his head. If Peter didn't want any figs, he wasn't about to have any.

JOHN

But John was feeling a little hungry so he stepped forward to fish a couple of figs from the pouch. He hated confrontation, and eating a little something sounded good right now.

PETER

Peter realized he was losing control. 'Something's gotta be done,' the fisherman proclaimed. 'Judas says our cash flow is really tight.'

MATTHEW

Matthew, ever the numbers guy, chimed in. 'That's right. Our expenditures have been exceeding our revenues at an alarming pace.'

JOHN

John felt he might as well contribute to this discussion. 'At this rate, we'll be lucky if we can afford to buy a single fish to feed all of us.'

JESUS

Jesus smiled. 'You do know, I only need one.'

PETER

'Yeah, sure,' Peter said, 'but that's the point. You haven't done anything like that for a while. You need to do more of that fish-and-bread multiplying stuff. The crowds ate it up.'

JESUS

'Well, they were hungry.'

PETER

'You know what I mean. You were reeling them in.'

JOHN

'You can't resist fishing puns, can you?'

PETER

'I could have said that they were hooked.'

MATTHEW

'What Pete's saying is it just seems that if you did more of that flashy stuff, we could pull the crowds in again.'

PETER

'Exactly. Heal a few people. Raise somebody from the dead. That kind of thing.'

JESUS

'Numbers are important to you?'

**END OF SAMPLE**

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