

## **Risk/Reward in Old Jerusalem**

Synopsis - Jesus pitches Bernie Madoff as financial advisor to the 12 apostles

Cast - **Judas** - treasurer to Jesus' followers

**Bernie Madoff** - financial advisor in Old Jerusalem

**Thomas** - speaks for the Apostles

**Servants 1 - 4** non-speaking roles

David Duffner

49 Spice Bush Lane Milford, CT 06461

203 305 4689 dlduffner@gmail.com

## **Risk/Reward in Old Jerusalem by David Duffner**

Judas pitches Bernie Madoff as fFinancial Advisor to the 12 Apostles. Thomas sits facing the presentation area with table. Judas and Bernie Madoff enter.

Judas - Alright guys settle down, settle down. Everybody have enough to eat? The way you went thru those loaves and fishes, I know, I know, loaves and fishes again?- maybe next time some lamb in a nice pita? - you'd think it was your last supper. As you know, Jesus has made me the treasurer of the group, and a few of you have come to me with the same concern. 'Abandon everything and follow me' is all well and good, but what about my obligations to my family? Who is going to provide for Mom and Dad? Saturday School doesn't pay for itself. What is the wife to do when the donkey breaks down? Nobody is giving replacement donkeys away. What about my old age?' - As you know, you signed over the fishing boats, your tax collections, even your extra cloaks and sandals to me, and today, as treasurer, I want to give you a full accounting as to what was done with the proceeds. I'm just an accountant, so let me introduce the man I propose to be our official financial advisor, Brother Bernie Madoff.

Madoff - Judas came to me about five month's ago and said that he was worried that his treasury wasn't going to grow at rate to support all the obligations that the 12 of you might incur. I was surprised. I said, "What are you worried about? Aren't you the guys who trust in God to provide? "In God we Trust" Isn't that engraved on the shekel? Hasn't God done right for you so far?" And Judas said something that affected me, affected me right here. He said, "I have one big obligation above the others, it's an obligation I've made to God, and that is to protect the 12 of us."

So I said, 'All I ask is a chance.' I believed in Judas, and Judas made that leap of faith in me, and today I'm here to show you the results.

(Four servants come in, two carrying an inscribed stone tablet, and two carrying a tray piled high with silver coins.)

In just three months the Madoff group has been able to increase the size of your portfolio by 25 percent. This represents triple the average return of other investment concerns. And as you can see, those results are carved in stone, not written on flimsy papyrus. These returns are entirely legitimate, and were obtained with no more risk than is prudent.

Thomas - Hello, Brother Madoff. I'm Apostle Thomas. Forgive me for being skeptical, but how can you guarantee these outstanding results will be consistent over time, that one quarter's results are not just a fluke?

Madoff - Thomas that's a very good question, and you're right to be cautious. Without going into a great amount of detail about a process that is proprietary, and, to some extent necessarily secret, let me give you an example. We hedge our bets in unusual ways. Take

Pillaging and Looting - we don't invest in the concerns themselves, we buy the equipment needed for pillaging and looting and then lease the equipment to the actual participants. The depreciation advantages accrue very rapidly. At the same time, we identify the most likely targets of pillaging and looting and sell them theft and damage insurance. We've hedged our risk and the upside potential is enormous.

And Thomas, there is another factor to consider which should help to relieve your anxiety. Right now there are 12 of you. But everyone senses that we are on the cusp of a great change. What happens when 10 people a day abandon their possessions and follow the Lord? or a 100 a day? What happens when a 1000 people abandon their possessions? The Madoff Group is prepared to monetize those possessions in the fields of slavery, church construction, loaves and fishes franchises, and the hospitality industries in the cities of Jerusalem, Sodom, and Gomorrah. We will make money during the coveting and then make money when the coveting is renounced. And what is the end result? All the disciples will be able to shun worldly possessions and still be assured that their loved ones and their old age will be provided for.

Thomas speaks - I'm not certain Jesus would approve. He was pretty rough on those moneychangers in the Temple.

Judas interjects - Thomas, you should ask him at the next supper. I wouldn't speak for him, but I'm pretty sure you'll get more of that "rendering to Caesar" business, or maybe a parable involving mustard seeds, two brothers working in a vineyard, or some flowers in a field. As a matter of fact, Bernie, he has a new one about two stewards with different investment strategies that fits right in with your presentation.

Madoff speaks - Thomas, when you came to Jesus, what did you give up?

Thomas - A bag of mustard seeds, a cart, and a donkey.

Madoff - And what would you say they were worth? - be generous to yourself.

Thomas - Two pieces of silver.

Madoff - Judas, take six pieces of silver off the tray, and put it aside for Thomas. Anyone else? (Silence)...Thomas we're going to hold this aside and in three months I'll come back with a new stone tablet, and, God-willing, a much larger pile of silver. Then Thomas, if we're not fully subscribed, you may choose to reinvest, or Judas can keep your six pieces aside and safe. And gentlemen, I'm happy that I'm successful for you. But I'm happier knowing you can go forth and convert and proselytize, and not worry that your friends and family will be taken care of. Yours is a religion of vision, and my vision is that in my lifetime I will stand at the gates of the Nativity Theme Park in Bethlehem, and that we all will own a part of it.

