Anecdotal Evidence

Characters: SIMON/SERGEANT/HOMEOWNER (male, any age)

FISHERMAN1/SOLDER1/FOP1 (male, any age)

FISHERMAN2/SOLDIER2/FOP2 (male any age)

Props: 2 Helmets, 2 police-like caps, 2 FAKE Rifles, Binoculars

Setting: Begins with New Testament Israel, continues to WW I Trench, concludes with contemporary suburban street

At rise: FISHERMAN1 & FISHERMAN2 are at Stage Right (SR), SIMON is just off Stage Left (SL)

FISHERMAN1 (peering incredulously towards SL): Is that who I THINK it is?

FISHERMAN2: Simon!

FISHERMAN1: The Leper.

FISHERMAN2: You know he hates that name – "Simon The Leper". I wouldn't like it either.

FISHERMAN1: We BOTH know other Simon's – it's the easiest way to tell the difference between them all and it's not like we have to worry about his feelings – he's UNCLEAN.

FISHERMAN2 (To FISHERMAN1, as SIMON enters from SL): Doesn't look like it now, though…

SIMON (clothed only from waist down): It's a MIRACLE! I met Jesus of…

FISHERMAN1: Nazareth – there's only one Jesus worth talking about.

SIMON: Right! He cured me of my leprosy! He told me to bathe in the Jordan and look at me!

(FISHERMAN1 and FISHERMAN2 approach him cautiously). LOOK AT ME! I haven't been this clean since I was a teen!

FISHERMAN1: And this happened after bathing in the Jordan?

FISHERMAN2: I didn't know the Jordan could clean anyone. It looks pretty gunky, if you ask me.

SIMON: It wasn't the Jordan! It was JESUS! I've been in the Jordan plenty of times and it didn't do squat

for me. But Jesus told me to do it so I figured “what the hell”. And now I’m so shiny – head, toes, and hiney.

FISHERMAN1: So just based on that, you’re jumping to the conclusion that it was Jesus? That’s just one data point.

FISHERMAN2: Actually, I heard about him turning the water to wine at a wedding.

SIMON: He’s got game – I saw him heal the lame.

FISHERMAN1: That’s anecdotal evidence.

SIMON: If YOU don’t wanna believe, that’s your business. But I believe! And you know what the BEST thing about this is?

FISHERMAN1: We don’t have to worry about bumping into you?

SIMON: OK, the SECOND-best thing about this.

FISHERMAN2: What?

SIMON: I don’t have to hear about you calling me “Simon The Leper”!

FISHERMAN2: I didn’t call you that…

SIMON: Word gets around…

FISHERMAN1 : I think I might’ve called you “Simon The Leopard” one time – you know – because you were so agile in your early days.

SIMON: Yeah, right – you think I was born yesterday? Well, ok, actually, I was RE-born today. But I HAVE feelings! I didn’t like being DEFINED as a leper. Would you like being called “Bart The Whiner”? Yeah, I heard about that (mocking whiney voice) “Waah… I don’t have back support”.

FISHERMAN2: It was a long sermon and that fish kid just would NOT sit down in front.

FISHERMAN1: Sorry, man – no hard feelings…I wasn’t the only one …

SIMON: I FORGIVE you – that’s what Jesus…

FISHERMAN2: Of Nazareth?

SIMON: YES! Of Nazareth! Yeesh, stay focused… eye on the prize. He’d want me to forgive you.

FISHERMAN1: I promise that we won’t call you that anymore and we’ll correct those that do.

FISHERMAN2: Especially as it’s not even applicable. But what should we call you? “The Simon formerly known as Leper”? That’s too long.

SIMON: You'll think of something. (very moved) I get to come home. (really sinks in) I get to go home. Thanks to His Amazing Grace, I can show my Face (exits SR).

FISHERMAN1 (has an idea for name): And there goes Rhymin' Simon…

(FISHERMAN1 and FISHERMAN2 stare off at SR, amazed at what they saw).

SIMON (hurriedly back from SR hands FISHERMAN1 and FISHERMAN2 each a helmet and rifle): Trust me, you'll need these. (SIMON exits SR again).

(FISHERMAN1 is now SOLDIER1, FISHERMAN2 is now SOLDIER2, SIMON is now SERGAENT and still off SR).

SOLDIER1 (puts helmet on, crouches, aims rifle at SL, squeezes his neck): Another cramp…nothing like trench warfare.

SOLDIER2 (puts helmet on, crouches, aims rifle at SL): I hear ya – "Great War" -- for WHO? Great WASTE is what it is.

SOLDIER1 (mockingly): On the bright side, this will be the war to end all wars. Not that I'll live to see that. If it's not the bullets, it's one disease or another.

SOLDIER2: All this because ONE arch-duke gets bumped off. What's an arch-duke anyway?

SOLDIER1: I guess he was someone's arch-enemy. Wilson should've listened to George Washingtion – avoid foreign entanglements.

SOLDIER2: He also warned against forming political parties, right?

SOLDIER1: Yeah, a real smart guy. But we didn't listen & now we'll never see home again.

SOLDIER2: One day at a time – let's try to stay sharp…

SERGEANT (enters from SR with binoculars): Hey, stay sharp! (peers thru binoculars): Uh… is that what I think it is? Just when I thought it couldn't get any worse…

SOLDIER1: What? What? I don't see any enemy advance!

SOLDIER2: Me neither? Sarge?

SERGEANT: I can only PRAY it's not what I think it is…

SOLDIER1: What? What?

SERGEANT: Gas.

SOLDIER2: It wasn't ME this time and the rations are terrible. You're just as bad.

SERGEANT: From the Germans! I was hoping it was just a rumor but they're using mustard gas. It will