



*The Rock is a Youth  
Ministry of Ascension  
Lutheran Church*

## **Out of This World!**

**Based on Philippians 3:17-4:1**

<b>Captain Kirk:</b>	<b>Toby (Green Shirt)</b>
<b>Mr. Spock:</b>	<b>Zach (Blue Shirt &amp; Ears)</b>
<b>Scotty:</b>	<b>Michael (Red Shirt)</b>
<b>Uhura:</b>	<b>Sandra (Red Shirt)</b>
<b>Leah:</b>	<b>Annee (Muffs &amp; Robe)</b>
<b>Dr. McCoy:</b>	<b>Ryan (Blue Shirt)</b>
<b>Chekov:</b>	<b>Johannes</b>
<b>Sulu:</b>	<b>Matt (Green Shirt)</b>
<b>Jesus:</b>	<b>Joe (Jesus Robe)</b>
<b>Devil:</b>	<b>Allee (Black Robe)</b>
<b>Paul:</b>	<b>Nate (Paul Robe)</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Lauren (Steno Pad &amp; Pen)</b>

**Setting:** *A parody of the TV show "Star Trek". The starship Enterprise, traces it's way back to 1st century Palestine in search of intelligent life, and finds that Jesus and his Kingdom were "Out of this World." Enterprise Crew is seated about cabin, with Mr. Spock standing next to Capt. Kirk.*

*(Star Trek Theme plays in background.)*

**Capt. Kirk:** "Space, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise. Its 5-year Mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before."

*(Music ends as Capt. Kirk takes his seat.)*

**February 28, 2010**

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Mr. Spock: Five-year Mission? (*Looks at Capt. Kirk.*)

Capt. Kirk: Okay, 3 years plus 40 years in syndication, a spin-off sequel series and countless movies.

Mr. Spock: So, Captain, where are we?

Capt. Kirk: (*Looks out at audience.*) Hmm. There seems to be no sign of intelligent life anywhere.

Mr. Spock: So where are we headed today, Captain?

Capt. Kirk: Out...of this world, Mr. Spock. Out...of this world. Specifically, a strange new world. Palestine, Planet Earth, first century.

Sulu: Ooh, 1st century Palestine. Better bring our chief communications officer, Uhura, with us. Uhura! (*Uhura & Leah enter the room.*)

Leah: Shalom, Captain.

Capt. Kirk: Say, your not Lieutenant Commander Uhura.

Leah: What was your first clue, Sherlock?

Capt. Kirk: Those Cinnabon's pasted to the side of your head. Say, haven't I seen you somewhere before?

Leah: Please, Capt. Kirk, you're my only hope.

Uhura: Captain, her home planet blew up. I felt sorry for her. What can I say? Besides her outfit ought to fit right into first century Palestine, right Dr. McCoy?

Dr. McCoy: I'm a doctor, not a tailor, woman!

Mr. Spock: First century? But that's entirely illogical, sir. We're supposed to be going to strange NEW worlds...

Capt. Kirk: Mr. Spock, my pointy-eared Vulcan friend, there's an ancient 20th century saying.

Mr. Spock: What's that, Captain?

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Chekov: You no maka' the skit, you know maka' the rules.  
(*Pause.*) It's a Russian saying.

Capt. Kirk: Really? Sounds Italian. Prepare for warp speed,  
Scotty.

Scotty: Aye, sir. And maybe a wee bit more!

*(Entire crew Leans BACK, leans RIGHT, leans LEFT, and then leans FORWARD, indicating a stop.)*

Mr. Spock: Slow down, captain, I'm exhausted!

Sulu: Arriving in Palestine, Captain.

Mr. Spock: So, Captain, why are we here.

Capt. Kirk: Why are we here, my elfin' cohort? To take a look at  
the life and ministry of one Jesus of Nazareth.

Mr. Spock: If my memory serves me correct, Captain, Jesus was  
a first century man of Jewish origin?

Capt. Kirk: Wrong, Mr. Spock, though as you suggest, many see  
him as such: a baby, the son of Mary and Joseph, a  
Galilean, a carpenter, a prophet, the Messiah. But  
very much a man.

Scotty: Aye, but many of his contemporaries saw him as an  
earthly king who would establish an earthly kingdom.

Capt. Kirk: And tragically, for 2000 years, many of his followers  
have shackled his kingdom to earth.

Chekov: But repeatedly, he told them and demonstrated to  
them that he was not of this world.

Capt. Kirk: Correct, Dr. McCoy. Observe, the temptation of Jesus  
in the wilderness, or shall we say, Exhibit A. Beam us  
down, Scotty.

Scotty: Aye, aye, Captain. (*Sound effect as Kirk, Chekov,  
Spock, Sulu, Uhura, Leah, & McCoy are beamed  
down to Jesus on right side of stage.*)

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- Devil: If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.
- Jesus: It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"
- Devil: "I will give you all their authority and splendor. So if you worship me, it will all be yours."
- Jesus: "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"
- Devil: "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. For it is written: "He will command his angels...so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"
- Jesus: "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
- Capt. Kirk: You see! Satan tempted him with all the things this world has to offer.
- Dr. McCoy: The Captain is right: Food, riches, authority, splendor, & health. Yet Jesus denied them all, because his life—his kingdom—was not of this world.
- Capt. Kirk: Scotty, transport us ahead to Exhibit B.
- Scotty: *Aye, aye, Captain. (Sound effect as crew "transports" to Paul on left side of stage.)*
- Chekov: But what is this, Captain?
- Capt. Kirk: Behold, the Apostle Paul from his house arrest in Rome, composing his letter to the church of Philippi, with the assistance of his secretary, Ms. Wiggins.
- Paul: Ms. Wiggins. Repeat my last line.
- Ms. Wiggins: Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

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- Uhura: Paul is urging the Philippians to follow his example, and the example of those like him.
- Paul: For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- Ms. Wiggins: Paul, do you really want to say "tears"?
- Paul: Tears, Ms. Wiggins, Tears.
- Wiggins: Got your tears, Paul.
- Paul: Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame.
- Mr. Spock: Destiny of destruction? Their god is their stomach? Their glory is their shame? Sounds like a classic case of humans controlled again by their emotions.
- Capt. Kirk: You see, Mr. Spock, there were two groups that the early church confronted: legalists and libertines. Even today, we see variations on these two sets of people.
- Dr. McCoy: One group of legalists in that day were Judaizers: legalists who insisted that salvation involved rigidly following the outward bodily, dietary, and ritualistic customs of the Jewish faith.
- Leah: Today, there are legalists in our midst too: people who insist that the Christian faith be reduced to a pattern of do's and don'ts: social, political, and moral correctness.
- Capt. Kirk: But their Pharisee-like zeal for such things turns off those the church was directed to reach.
- Dr. McCoy: The Libertines were people known for taking liberties with their freedom: people who wrongly believed that Christian freedom allowed them to do pretty much whatever they wanted.
- Uhura: We have those people with us today too.

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- Mr. Spock: Klingons?
- Capt. Kirk: Yes, in a matter of speaking, Mr. Spock. They cling on to things of this earth, unable to comprehend the spiritual. Right, Paul?
- Paul: Their mind is on earthly things.
- Mr. Spock: Who is he addressing here: the legalists or libertines?
- Capt. Kirk: I think it is both, for both groups focus on things of this world, neglecting things of heaven.
- Paul: But our citizenship is in heaven.
- Leah: And Paul cleverly appeals to the Philippians' pride in citizenship: for they were Roman citizens, yet living not in Rome, but a distant colony.
- Mr. Spock: Just like the Christians were to see themselves as Citizens of Heaven living as aliens on planet earth.
- Dr. McCoy: And in a nutshell this has been a 2000-year-old disease of the church: getting Christians to understand that their Kingdom and citizenship is not of this world; it is in heaven.
- Uhura: Dr. McCoy has correctly diagnosed it as a disease.
- Leah: Too often, the church has lost sight of its heavenly citizenship, and—unlike Jesus—copied the pattern of the world.
- Dr. McCoy: Christians have too often tethered themselves to the wealth, power, and methods of this world, thereby losing their "out of this world" uniqueness, credibility, and witness.
- Mr. Spock: Resulting in everything from small day-to-day mistakes to entire tragic periods like the dark ages, the crusades, and the persecutions of non-believers and even other Christians.

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- Dr. McCoy: But when the church has not tethered herself to things of this world, the church has been at its best: Pentecost, the martyrs, and eras of booming growth.
- Leah: The church does best when it follows Jesus' "out of this world" example.
- Mr. Spock: Anything more, Captain Kirk?
- Capt. Kirk: Scotty, transport us back to Jesus in his sermon on the mount.
- Scotty: *Aye, aye, Captain. (Crew shifts over to Jesus' side of stage.)*
- Capt. Kirk: Observe, Exhibit C: the Beatitudes.
- Jesus: Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Blessed are the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted because of righteousness. Blessed are you when people insult you.
- Mr. Spock: You see, none of this advice makes logical sense. It's entirely illogical.
- Dr. McCoy: You're right, you overgrown Jackrabbit! What self-help guru worth his \$500-a-plate speaker's fee advises people to be poor in spirit, mournful, meek, righteous, merciful, pure, peaceful, and insulted?
- Capt. Kirk: Jesus was "out of this world" and he expects his followers to be "out of this world" too.
- Chekov: But the logic of this world says "Persecute those who persecute you", "fight fire with fire".
- Leah: "When they slap you on your cheek, punch them in the nose." "When they ask for your shirt, tell them to get their own."
- Scotty: Aye, Lassie. "Blast those that blast you!"

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Capt. Kirk: Exactly. Exhibit D, Mr. Spock. Paul told the Ephesians to put on the full armor of God.

Dr. McCoy: *(Pulls out his belt.)* The belt of truth,

Mr. Spock: *(Thumps chest.)* The breastplate of righteousness,

Uhura: *(Holds up a shoe.)* The shoes of the gospel of peace,

Sulu: *(Holds up hand.)* The shield of faith,

Scotty: *(Holds up his hat.)* The helmet of salvation,

Leah: *(Picks up the Bible.)* And the sword of the Spirit.

Capt. Kirk: It's all spiritual stuff: not real belts, boots, breastplates, shields, helmets & swords.

Mr. Spock: The Christian soldier is equipped for spiritual battle because he's "out of this world."

Uhura: Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Faith, Salvation and the Holy Spirit.

Scotty: So, no phasers, no blasters?

Mr. Spock: No Vulcan nerve pinch thingy *(demonstrates on Sulu, who collapses)*.

Leah: Not even a light saber? *(Pulls out light saber.)*

Capt. Kirk: Not even a light saber, Princess Cinnabon. *(Closes her light saber.)*

Mr. Spock: Perhaps we can still use the Vulcan mind meld.

Capt. Kirk: You mean where we enter their mind, and meld with their intelligence?

Dr. McCoy: I think that's basically what Christ did when he came to earth as a human.

Paul: He told stories of farmers, shepherds, judges, lost coins and rebellious sons.

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- Leah: He reached out to lowly shepherds, smelly fishermen, tax collectors, prostitutes, and radicals.
- Sulu: Just imagine: two of his disciples were Simon the Zealot and Matthew the Tax Collector.
- Mr. Spock: So what?
- Sulu: Politically-speaking, Zealots and Tax Collectors were diametrically opposed to each other.
- Leah: Matthew likely made a very good living collecting dues and customs from persons crossing the Sea of Galilee, or passing along the great Damascus road.
- Uhura: And Simon is always described as a Zealot—possibly from Caesarea in Galilee: a hotbed of Zealot activity.
- Sulu: Tax Collectors were seen as doing Rome’s bidding, making a living by collecting taxes for not just their own government, but also a foreign government.
- Uhura: And Zealots encouraged armed resistance to Rome. They were willing to fight and die for that belief.
- Leah: For them, nationalistic patriotism and religion were inseparable. They were as likely to kill a tax collector as have a cup of coffee with him.
- Mr. Spock: Hmm, so the disciples must have had some interesting political discussions around the campfire?
- Uhura: Yeah, but curiously, none of the Gospel accounts ever mention it or record Jesus taking sides.
- Dr. McCoy: In the presence of the Lord of the universe, such things of this world fade into obscurity.
- Uhura: Lions lay down with lambs.
- Leah: And Zealots walk along side Tax Collectors.
- Mr. Spock: So, Captain, did Paul have anything else to say?

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- Paul: *(Paul has fallen asleep.)* Oh, excuse me, I thought you'd forgotten about me. Now where was I?
- Ms. Wiggins: Verse 20, Paul.
- Paul: Thank you, Ms. Wiggins! And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.
- Capt. Kirk: Paraphrased...Beam us up Scotty!
- Scotty: Scotty? Beam me up, Jesus! Out of this World!
- Paul: Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!
- Mr. Spock: *(Makes hand sign.)* Live long and prosper! But do it...
- All: Out of this World!