



Written by  
Cora Alley

## “In A Twinkling”

**Scripture:** Matthew 40: 40, 41

*"Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill: one will be taken and the other left."*

**Dramatic Category:** "Three-in-One Skit" (With a “Skerman” option.)

**What is a "Three-in-One Skit"?**

A "Three-in-One Skit" presents three separate stories being told scene-by-scene, alternating with each other. The lights direct the audience to the next scene that “comes alive” while the other two freeze (in tableau); however, this skit can be done without light pools as well. When one couple ends their scene, they freeze in position; their last line sets up the next couple’s first line. Each couple’s action resumes exactly where it left off when their turn comes around again. Each scene ends up with the same conclusion or summary statement.

All three scenes freeze when they are finished, and the pastor has the option of walking right up to them and using them as mannequins to illustrate his sermon. He may prefer to have the players exit the stage, but leave a prop in the scene (like a book or a folder, etc.) that he can pick up and refer to, reminding the audience what this scene was about and why it illustrates the point he is making in his sermon. This art form is very unique and surprising!

A "Three-in-One Skit" provides a very memorable introduction, conclusion, or mid-way example for the pastor as he presents the church sermon. It gives your drama ministry a first-hand opportunity to link with the pastor to create a sermon illustration that will compliment any topical or expository sermon.

**Topic:**

A contrast between the kinds of people who will be “taken” and those that will be “left” when Jesus comes for His Church.

**Performance Time:** 10 minutes

**Number of Players:** 6 players ( 3 men; 3 women)

**Objective:**

"Being ready to meet Jesus" refers to a condition of the heart, as is illustrated in this sketch in which some are taken, and some are left behind.

**Synopsis:**

This "Three-in-One Skit" wakes people up to the "end times" in which we live. It is a portrayal of the kinds of scenes Jesus describes when He tells of two people working in the field, one vanishes, and the other is left behind. The miracle of the "Rapture" will take everyone by surprise, but those of us who are ready to meet Him will mingle delight with our surprise, while those left behind will be forced to mingle only horror with surprise.

In scene 1, Kaylene excludes people from her guest-list because they aren't the "right sort." In scene 2, David uses his position as the husband as a license to dominate, and in scene 3, an employee justifies "creative financing." This skit sets up a sermon on the "heart attitude" which identifies true believers.

**Cast:***Scene 1*

Shawn: *a ragged, rebellious, "cool," teenager*  
Kaylene: *a socially perfect, judgmental teen*

*Scene 2*

Kelly: *a defiant wife*  
Dave: *a dominant husband*

*Scene 3*

Burke: *an ethical businessman*  
Jeanne: *a sly associate who bends the rules*

**Props:***Scene 1*

A CD player  
Headphones  
A note/steno pad  
A pencil

*Scene 2*

A newspaper  
A dishtowel  
A Bible

*Scene 3*

Something that looks like a ledger  
An adding machine or a calculator

**Sound:** A fabulous trumpet blast needs to be played at the end.

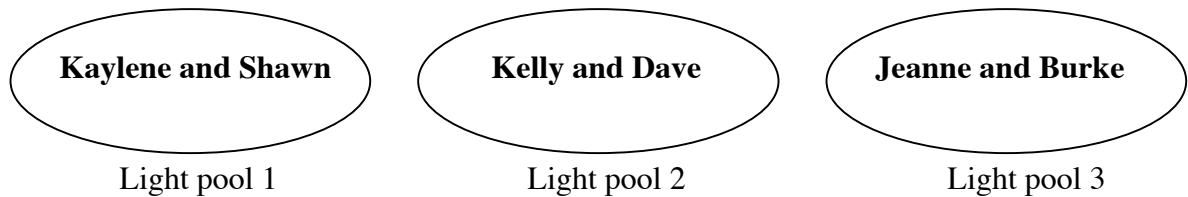
## Staging Arrangement:

### LIGHTING NOTES:

This skit is done in **three light pools**. Only the scene that is active is illuminated; the other two are in darkness. This is a “light show” in that the lit spots direct the audience’s attention to the next scene. When one couple ends their scene, they freeze in position; their last line sets up the next couple’s first line. This is a "tableau or freeze-pose" sketch. The audience is able to see all three couples at one time; however two of the three are always frozen. Each couple’s action resumes exactly where it left off when their turn comes around again.

At the conclusion of the skit, **backlight a portion of the stage**, behind the backdrop, so that the faces of those going to Heaven can be seen as they walk into the light.

**Stage Arrangement:** Three light pools.



### The Script:

#### Scene 1: "Christian Snobbery" (Kaylene and Shawn)

**LIGHTS: UP ON POOL 1 (Kaylene and Shawn), THE REST OF THE STAGE IS DARK.**

*(Shawn is reading his Bible, but holds the CD player on his lap with his headset plugged into it, tapping his feet to the music. Kaylene paces back and forth beside him, checking off people whose names are written on her note pad.)*

**Kaylene:** Do you think we should invite Mike to the all-nighter?

*(Shawn ignores her. He keeps tapping his feet. He is engrossed in reading his Bible at the same time. Kaylene lifts up the headset and shouts at him.)*

I said, do you think we should invite Mike to the all-nighter?

**Shawn:** *(jumping at the loud noise)* Huh? Oh, sure.  
It's a party for the whole youth group, isn't it?  
Hey, are you ready to fly?

**Kaylene:** Fly? What are you talking about?

**Shawn:** *(pointing at his Bible)* It says right here  
we will be caught up in the clouds to meet Jesus.  
How cool!  
We're gonna' fly.  
Trumpet blasts and everything.  
Are you ready?

**Kaylene:** He's not coming right now, and He's not coming to the all-nighter;  
now, are you going to help me plan this thing, or not?

**Shawn:** He's coming to the all-nighter.  
The Spirit of God is everywhere;  
I don't think He'd want to miss a good party.

**Kaylene:** It's fine with me if Jesus comes to the all-nighter,  
I just can't decide who else to send invitations to.

**Shawn:** I don't see why you have to send invitations;  
just put an announcement in the church paper.

**Kaylene:** *(horrified)* Then everybody would come!

**Shawn:** Isn't that the point?

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 1**

*(Black out the light on them and simultaneously come up on the next couple.)*

**LIGHTS: UP ON POOL 2 (Kelly And Dave)**

**Scene 2: "To Have and to Strangle-hold" (Kelly and Dave)**

*(Dave is seated in a chair, facing the audience with his head buried in a newspaper. Kelly paces back and forth behind his chair. She looks disgusted with him, nervously wrings a dish towel, and stares at him defiantly.)*

**Kelly:** You're missing the point!

**Dave:** *(lowering his newspaper and speaking firmly)* Don't tell me I'm missing the point.  
I'm the head of this house, and what I say goes!

**Kelly:** You always get like this.  
Once you make up your mind, you're impossible.

**Dave:** Of course I am; it's my job.  
When you and me don't agree, I win; God said!

**Kelly:** I don't think so.

**Dave:** Sure He did.  
Wives submit in everything, and where we go on vacation is part of everything;  
we're going fishing!

**Kelly:** I want to go to Hawaii!

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 2**

*(Black out the light on them and simultaneously come up on the next couple.)*

**LIGHTS: UP ON POOL 3 (Jeanne And Burke)**

**Scene 3: "The Wayward Worker" (Jeanne and Burke)**

*(Jeanne is seated at a desk. She has a ledger open, and is punching numbers on a calculator. She writes figures in the ledger. Burke stands beside her and stares at her in disbelief.)*

**Burke:** You can't go to Hawaii!

**Jeanne:** Sure I can.  
The flight has a stopover in Hawaii,  
and I don't see why I can't stay for a week.

**Burke:** It's company funds, that's why!

**Jeanne:** My expense account will show the same air fair.  
I'll just wait a week to connect planes.

**Burke:** The boss will expect you back.

**Jeanne:** I'll tell him the meeting in Hong Kong took an extra week.

**Burke:** Don't you think he'll notice that the receipts on your expense account will come from Hawaii?

**Jeanne:** I know people in accounting.  
The boss will never find out.

*(The lights go out on them and simultaneously come up on the next couple.)*

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 3**

*(Black out the light on them and simultaneously come up on the next couple.)*

**LIGHTS: UP ON POOL 1 (Shawn And Kaylene)**

*(Their scene picks up exactly where it left off earlier. They continue without missing a beat.)*

**Kaylene:** Believe me, they'll never find out!

**Shawn:** Right, we're gonna' have a party, and the "unacceptable" people won't find out.

**Kaylene:** You don't have to say it like that!

**Shawn:** Did you send an invitation to Kathy?

**Kaylene:** No. She doesn't take her faith seriously.

**Shawn:** Oh, you've decided that, have you?

**Kaylene:** Look, just because she had the baby, doesn't make it right.  
If anybody is the kind to get an abortion, it's her!

**Shawn:** *(satirically)* Oh, I see.  
Now that you put it that way, I understand.

*(He gets his Bible out and opens it.)*

The church wouldn't want any sinners to get "inside."

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 1**

*(Lights fade on them and simultaneously come up on the next couple.)*

**LIGHTS: UP ON POOL 3 (Burke And Jeanne)**

*(Their scene picks up exactly where it left off earlier. They continue without missing a beat.)*

**Burke:** So, who do you know on the inside?

**Jeanne:** I used to supervise accounting, remember?  
I could fix the books myself.

**Burke:** *(looks at her in disgust)* You're really serious!

**Jeanne:** Of course.  
You've got to get all you can get out of life.  
You only go around once, ya' know.

**Burke:** Wrong. You go around twice.

**Jeanne:** Twice?

**Burke:** Yeah, you live; you die; then you live again.

**Jeanne:** Right, you live here, die, then go to Heaven.

**Burke:** Not necessarily.

**Jeanne:** What are you getting at?

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 3**

*(The light goes out on them and simultaneously come up on the next couple.)*

**LIGHTS: UP ON POOL 2 (Dave And Kelly)**

*(Their scene picks up exactly where it left off earlier. They continue without missing a beat.)*

**Dave:** I'll tell you what I'm getting at, Kelly.  
We don't have the money for a fancy vacation.

**Kelly:** But we do have the money for your new table saw, right?

**Dave:** You expect me to sacrifice my table saw for a vacation?  
The Bible says I'm the head of the house,  
and I don't have to sacrifice anything!

**Kelly:** Except yourself.  
That's what else the Bible says.

**Dave:** God gave me power over you, Kelly.  
Face it.

**Kelly:** You have power, just because you're bigger,  
but God gives you only as much authority as you earn.

**Dave:** *(reaching for his Bible, and turning to Ephesians 5: 24)*  
I don't have to earn anything: Listen,  
"Now, as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their  
husbands in everything."

**Kelly:** Go on.

**Dave:** *(reading silently to himself)*  
That's enough.  
You get the point.

**Kelly:** Go on, Dave.  
What else does it say?

**Dave:** "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church  
and gave himself up for her."

**Kelly:** "Gave himself up," Dave.  
Submission doesn't come cheap.  
Open your heart; read it for what it really says.

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 2**

*(The lights fade out on them and simultaneously come up on the next couple.)*

**LIGHTS: UP ON POOL 1 (Shawn And Kaylene)**

*(Their scene picks up exactly where it left off earlier. They continue without missing a beat.)*

**Shawn:** Do you know what this really says?

**Kaylene:** *(staring at the Bible Shawn hands her)* Of course I know what it really says.

*(She puts the Bible down.)*

We have to plan this all-nighter.

**Shawn:** It's a policy manual for all-nighters.

**Kaylene:** Come on!

**Shawn:** Well, okay,  
maybe it doesn't tell you "how" to have them,  
but it tells you "why" to have them.  
Something, about "seeking and saving the lost?"  
Open your heart, Kaylene.  
Read it for what it really says.

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 1**

*(Lights fade out on them and simultaneously come up on the next couple.)*

**LIGHTS: UP ON POOL 3 (Jeanne And Burke)**

*(Their scene picks up exactly where it left off earlier. They continue without missing a beat.)*

**Burke:** You know what that really says.

**Jeanne:** *(looking up from her ledger work)*  
I know, but I'm the only one that knows.  
That's the beauty of it.

**Burke:** That's where you're wrong.  
You're not the only one who knows.

**Jeanne:** You're not going to rat on me, are you?



**Burke:** This is not just between you and me;  
it's between you and God.

**Jeanne:** Don't go mixing business with religion.

**Burke:** You can't separate God from anything.  
He just sorta' busts in when He's least expected.

**Jeanne:** I think God is bigger than this vacation thing.

**Burke:** I know.  
I'm sorry you're not.

*(He takes his Bible out of his pocket.)*  
Here after you finish doctoring up those books,  
maybe this book can doctor you up.

**Jeanne:** The Bible?

**Burke:** Yeah, open your heart.  
Read it for what it really says.

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 3**

**ALL LIGHT POOLS UP 1, 2, AND 3**

**SOUND: A MIGHTY TRUMPET BLAST**

*(All the characters are shocked and stare straight ahead.)*

**LIGHTS: BLACK OUT ALL LIGHTS**

**Lighting Note:**

*(As the lights go to black, Kelly, Shawn, and Burke walk over to stage left and face the backdrop with their backs to the audience.)*

**LIGHTS: BRIGHT BACK LIGHT UP**

*(The backlight comes on and Kelly, Shawn, and Burke walk into it, face-first. The audience sees the lit up outline of their bodies as they walk into the bright light behind the backdrop. Kaylene, Dave, and Jeanne sit in darkness.)*

**LIGHTS: BRIGHT BACK LIGHT OFF**

**LIGHTS: SLOWLY UP ON ALL THREE POOLS**

*(As the lights slowly come up, Kaylene, Dave, and Jeanne look around in disbelief. They are all moving at the same time. This last scene is not done separately. They look in the direction of the trumpet blast.)*

**LIGHTS: FADE TO BLACK**

**LIGHTS: OUT FOR A MOMENT**

**LIGHTS: UP ON ALL THREE POOLS**

### **“In A Twinkling” Sermon Options**

#### **Sermon Option 1:**

All players remain in “tableau,” (frozen stage picture) and the pastor walks around each set, making his comments about the conditions of their hearts. The players do not respond to the pastor. At a given point, cued by the pastor, the players leave the stage, and the pastor continues his message.

#### **Sermon Option 2:**

All players exit the stage during the blackout, but leave behind one object. The pastor approaches each scene and picks up the object to remind the audience of the discoveries reflected in that scene.

#### **Sermon Points:**

**Pastor:** *(carrying his bible)*  
Is your heart open? Do you read it *(holding up the Bible)* for what it really says?

#### **SCENE 1:**

**Pastor:** You either see Jesus in the least of these around you or you don't. *(He goes on to expound on the extreme importance of our treatment of one another.)*

#### **SCENE 2:**

**Pastor:** There are two fundamental laws of the universe.  
One: there is a God,  
Two: it's not you.  
*(He goes on to expound on those who hide behind the scriptures to devise their own justification for sin.)*

#### **SCENE 3:**

**Pastor:** There are no shortcuts outlined in this book.  
You are either sold out or left out.  
*(He goes on to expound on the end times and the coming of Jesus Christ as the righteous judge.)*