



Written by
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"What's Wrong With People?"

Scripture: Matthew 7:3

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"

Dramatic Category: A Monologue in a skit (*Also a "Skerman."*)

Note: This skit involves the pastor sitting in a chair with his back to audience while listening to Carl complain. All he does is nod in agreement.

Topic: Casting the blame for your problems on others

Performance time: 2 minutes

Number of Players: 1 player + the pastor

Objective: To make clear that casting the blame is wrong; look to yourself.

Synopsis: This "skerman" takes place as the Pastor is listening to Carl rant and rave about how wrong people are in their actions and how unfair life is. The Pastor's back is to the audience, so Carl faces the audience. The Pastor nods, and just lets Carl go about his tirade. At the conclusion, Carl freezes and the Pastor turns to the audience and comments on Carl's frame of mind. Carl is in a "tableau" or freeze as the Pastor walks around him, like he would a mannequin. At a cue in the message, Carl leaves the stage.

Cast:

Carl (*A paranoid man who is convinced that the world is out to get him, and life is not fair.*)

NOTE: This could be a female. Change the name, and adjust the lines accordingly.

Pastor

Costumes: Office attire

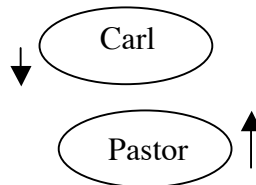
Props:

A notepad that Carl uses as a checklist for his complaints. It actually has the "cheat copy" of his script because he has quite a bit to memorize."
(See the end of this script.)

A spin-around office chair, with a high back, so the Pastor can spin around a face the audience, but the audience does not notice that it is him until he does turn around.

Lights: General stage lighting

STAGING NOTE: Arrange the stage like this:



Note: Either have the lights go dark so the Pastor can enter the stage and sit down, or divert the audience's eyes with some other part of your service, or offer a prayer while the pastor gets in place. It adds a little fun if the audience does not know to whom Carl is complaining.

The Script:

(The Pastor sits in a high-backed, spin-around chair, with his back to the audience)

*(NOTE: Carl enters the scene, acknowledging the pastor with a nod. He holds a **steno-pad** where he has jotted some notes, so he can be concise; **actually, these notes are his lines for the skit.**)*

Carl: *(hurried and agitated)* I'll get right to the point. I'm sure you don't want to listen to me drone on....and Lord knows, I don't have time for idle chatter.
(Carl refers to his open steno-pad, which is also his cheat sheet.)

Pastor: *(Keep words to a minimum.)* Okay.

Carl: First off, my wife says I'm impossible. She insists I get some help. Okay, I'm here; so, help me.

Pastor: Go on.

Carl: I don't need help. I just need an explanation. It's that simple.

Pastor: About?

Carl: People. Why are they so stupid?

Pastor: Okay.

Carl: She called you, didn't she? She told you that I was skipped over; that it didn't get the promotion, right?

Pastor: She did.

Carl: So, how am I supposed to react to that, huh?*(He goes on without a pause.)* I'll tell you how I'm going to react. I'll file a complaint; that's what I'll do.

Pastor: Go on.

Carl: Oh...I know what you're thinking. You're thinking that Christians don't file complaints. I should just let my promotion go to some two-bit hick. Don't they know who I am? I have an MBA from the Harvard School of Business, for crying out loud! Do you know who's getting my promotion?

Pastor: No.

Carl: A woman. How do you like that? If that's not pouring salt in my wounds! You know where she went to school?

Pastor: No.

Carl: A State School! Can you believe that? A state school graduate beat out a man from Harvard. I'll tell you what; the world doesn't make sense anymore!

Pastor: Go on.

Carl: I did everything right. I even reported those people from accounting who were wasting time in the coffee room. They didn't think that anybody noticed that they were taking 20 minute coffee breaks when the limit is ten; but I caught 'em. I timed 'em. I mean, that alone was enough to show the higher ups that I can be trusted.

Pastor: Really.

Carl: Look, I've been a Christian for a long time, but it's just not paying off. Nothing is working out. Can you just do one thing for me?

Pastor: What?

Carl: Just boil it all down and tell me what's wrong with all these stupid people?

(Carl hits a freeze at the stage right side of the chair. The Pastor gets up from the chair and turns around to face the audience. He segues into his sermon...)

(A light comes onto Carl who maintains the freeze pose. The pastor spins his chair around and faces the audience. He gets up, moves over to where Carl is frozen, and talks to him without Carl responding. He mentions his sexism, his prejudice, his superiority complex, his impatience, his lack of business ethics, his poor social skills, and his absolute lack of understanding the basics of Christianity. When the pastor is finished with Carl, he walks away, the light goes off, Carl leaves, and the sermon continues.....)

Pastor: Have you ever known a guy like Carl?

NOTE: *These are Carl's Lines to be place in the Steno-pad.*

I'll get right to the point. I don't have time for idle chatter.

wife says I'm impossible. ...get some help.

Okay, I'm here; so, help me.

I don't need help. I just need an explanation. It's that simple.

People. Why are they so stupid?

She called you...I was skipped over; ..

didn't get the promotion, right?

how am I supposed to react to that...I'll file a complaint.

know what you're thinking. Christians don't file complaints.

let my promotion go to some two-bit hick.

Don't they know who I am?

I have an MBA from the Harvard School of Business.

Do you know who's getting my promotion?

A woman. If that's not pouring salt in my wounds!

You know where she went to school?

Cal State! Can you believe that?

A woman from Cal State beat out a man from Harvard.

I'll tell you what; the world doesn't make sense anymore.

**I did everything right. I even reported those people
wasting time in the coffee room.....**

**taking 20 minute coffee breaks . I caught 'em. I timed 'em. ...
show the higher ups that I can be trusted.**

**Look, I've been a Christian for a long time,
but it's just not paying off.**

Nothing is working out. Can you just do one thing for me?

**Just boil it all down
and tell me what's wrong with all these stupid people?**