



Written by
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“Close Encounters With Christians of the Wrong Kind”

Scripture: Mt. 5: 14a & 16b

"You are the light of the world...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Dramatic Category: Skermon

Topic: Christian testimony hindered by bad behavior

Musical Option:

This skit goes well with the Song, "The Devil Needs A Good Man, In the Worst Sense of the Word" by David Wilcox davidwilcox.com . If you decide to use this as an introduction, be sure to purchase a copy and secure permission to either play it or have someone sing it in your church. Use the guitar rift or a chorus of the song between the scenes in this skit; this adds a great unifying feel to the entire piece. If this song is not available, use any song about an abrasive personality.

Performance time: 6 minutes

Number of Players: 6 players (5 men, 1 little girl) and 3 or more picketers

Objective:

To show how the behavior of some Christians can leave a negative impression on the unsaved, particularly through abrasive preaching and theological conflict.

Synopsis:

This "skermon" follows Brian through three encounters with Christians. He first encounters an angry crowd of morally outraged picketers led by an abrasive preacher who hurls abuses at passers by. He covers the ears of his little girl and hurries on. Next, while relaxing in the park, he finds himself between two men who both invite him to church, but become so enraged with each other over views of the end-times, that they don't even notice when Brian leaves. Finally, Brian has car trouble, but when a "Good Samaritan" offers to give him a ride because "It's the Christian thing to do," Brian has had such a bad taste of Christians that he decides to walk.

Cast:

- Brian: *The man who becomes irritated by Christians of the "wrong kind."*
- Little Girl: *Brian's 4-6 yr-old daughter, who is frightened by the crowd*
- A Crowd: *3-9 or more picketers who chant their slogans*
- Frank: *An abrasive street-preacher*
- Drew: *An argumentative denominational bigot*
- Tom: *An opposing argumentative denominational bigot*
- Matt: *A "Good Samaritan" who is ignored*

Costumes: Casual clothes

Props:

- Four or five chairs side-by-side, to form a park bench
- A few silk trees on either side of the bench for a park effect
- A newspaper with at least three sections.
- A chair, with a steering wheel tied on a microphone stand, in front of it.
- Signs for the picketers that read:

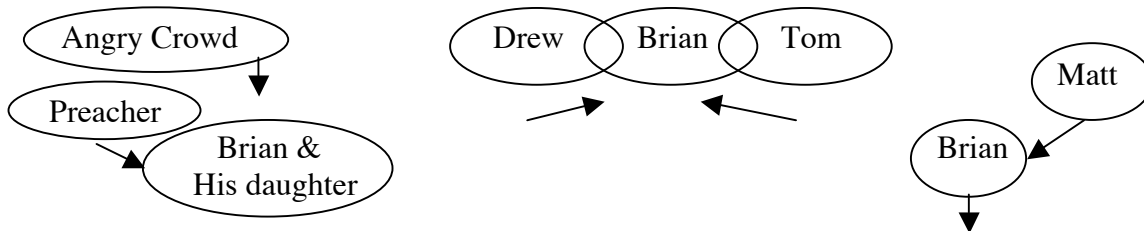
TURN OR BURN!
GOD IS WATCHING YOU!
REPENT!
JUDGMENT WILL COME!
THE END IS NEAR!
GOD HATES SINNERS!
HELL IS WAITING FOR YOU!
THINK ABOUT IT!
HIS BLOOD...OR YOURS!
AMAZING GRACE!

Lights: Three distinct light pools, or general stage lighting

Sound: The sound effect of a car that refuses to start
(option) Guitar background for the song, "The Devil Needs a Good Man"
(or some other song about abrasive people)

STAGING NOTE:

Arrange the stage in this format:



The Script

(optional music) Have the singer sit on the park bench and sing the song, "The Devil Needs A Good Man, in the Worst Sense of the Word."

Scene 1: "Hell-fire and Brimstone"

Pastor: *Set the stage for the message and give the actors a cue line with which to enter the stage, or open the message in prayer and have the players get into position during the prayer, or if you decide to use the song, have the pickers get into position during the song.*

LIGHTS: LIGHTS UP ON STAGE RIGHT.

(Brian begins his ascent onto the stage, holding his little girl by the hand. Suddenly, he is confronted by the "Christian riot." The picketers shout out the slogans from their signs, while pacing back and forth across the stage right area. The street pastor begins his tirade.)

Frank: You! *(pointing at Brian and his little girl)* Yes you!

(The little girl screams; Brian picks her up.)

How long will you run from the eyes of God?
He sees your every sinful move.

(Cheers of "Amen" and "Preach it," etc. punctuate the street pastor's message.)

He hears your every sinful thought.
He knows all your secrets. Yes, He does.
And God has told me His secret.
He's coming to judge you. All of you!

(The crowd cheers the street pastor's message. The little girl begins to cry. Brian covers her ears and hurries off stage.)

You may think you can out run God's judgement,
but He will find you, and He will punish your wickedness!

Crowd: Amen! Amen!
(They continue chanting their slogans.)

Optional freeze: Sermon Part1, or continue the skit uninterrupted.

LIGHTS: FADE OUT ON THIS SCENE

Sound: **Guitar rift of the song** (*optional*)

Scene 2: "Church Wars"

LIGHTS: **FADE UP ON THE PARK BENCH**

(Brian sits, center stage, on a park bench, or 4-5 chairs side-by-side to simulate a park bench. Be sure the men can have a little space between them, not side-by-side, so they have room to move in as the argument heats up. He takes a deep breath, looks around, opens up his newspaper, and begins to read. Drew walks up from stage right.)

Drew: Hi. Mind if I sit down. (*Drew sits at Brian's right.*)

Brian: Sure, go ahead.

Drew: (*leaning over to read Brian's paper.*) The world sure is a mess.

Brian: Sure is.

Drew: (*continuing to read over Brian's shoulder.*)

Drew: Doesn't look like it's going to get much better.

Brian: (*face-to-face with Drew.*) Would you like a section of my paper?

Drew: Sure, thanks.

(Brian hands Drew a section of his paper, then settles down to read again. Tom approaches from stage left, nods to Brian and Drew, then sits down. Brian and Drew return the nod as a greeting.)

Tom: Beautiful day.

Brian: Sure is.

Tom: Great day for sitting in the park.
(He looks around, and takes a deep breath.)

(Both men acknowledge his comment with another nod. Tom leans over Brian's left shoulder and begins to read Brian's newspaper.)

Brian: (*face-to-face with Tom*) Would you like a section of my paper?

(Brian hands Tom a section of his paper; now, all three men are reading their own section of Brian's paper.)

Tom: Thanks. *(He settles down to read.)*
God's in His heaven, and all is right with the world.

Drew: *(looking over his paper at Tom)*
God may be in His heaven, but all is not right with the world!

Tom: Well, yes; you have a point there, but God designed it to be right. We are the ones who messed it up with our sinful nature.

Drew: *(overjoyed)* Are you a Christian?

Tom: I am.

Drew: *(extending his hand across Tom's paper)* Praise the Lord!

Tom: Amen, brother!

(Brian lifts his newspaper a little higher, hiding behind it as Drew and Tom continue their joyful salutations.)

Drew: What church do you go to?

Tom: Parker Avenue Church. And you?

Drew: West Lake Fellowship.
(Drew leans in to Brian) What about you?
Are you a church-going man?

Brian: Me? *(lowering his paper)* No, I'm not.
(He raises his paper like a shield.)

Drew: You should try it.

Brian: I've had a taste of religion, and it doesn't suit me.

Tom: It's not religion that will satisfy you, brother; it's relationship.

Drew: Relationship with the risen Lord.

Tom: Amen!

Drew: Why don't you give West Lake Fellowship a try.
I'm Drew. *(He extends his hand.)* You can be my guest.
(Brian reluctantly shakes Drew's hand.)

Brian: Thanks, but I don't think I would fit in.

Tom: Well, then why don't you give Parker Avenue Church a try.
(*He extends his hand to Brian.*) I'm Tom. You can be my guest.

Brian: I appreciate the invitation, but I can make it just fine without all that hell-fire and brimstone in my life. (*He raises his newspaper again, and ducks behind it.*)

Drew: Well, you ain't seen nothin' yet! It's going to get a lot worse before it gets any better. If I were you, I'd get on the winning side.

Brian: (*peaking over the top of his paper*) What do you mean?

Drew: The tribulation is coming, my friend, and hell-fire will take on a whole new meaning then.

Brian: Tribulation? What tribulation?

Drew: (*He holds us a finger for each of these.:*) A time of judgment, war, famine, death. Those four horsemen are going to ride all over this world!

Brian: (*worried*) Horsemen?

Tom: (*to Drew*) You're scaring him.
(*to Brian*) Don't worry, we'll be gone before all that hits.

Brian: Gone? Where?

Tom: The rapture. Jesus is going to sound the last trumpet, and we will be caught up in the clouds.

Brian: How?

Drew: Hold on there. Revelation does not explicitly say that the church is not going to go through the tribulation.

Brian: (*looking from Drew to Brian*) Revelation? What revelation?

Tom: God has always rescued the faithful; look at the Ark, Sodom & Gomorrah, the cross of Calvary.

Brian: There's going to be a cavalry.

Drew & Tom: (*correcting Tom*) Calvary!

Tom: (*forcefully*) 1 Cor. 15:52 clearly states that the last trumpet will sound and we will be caught up in the clouds.

Drew: Then who's wearing those white robes Revelation 7:14 talks about? Survivors of the "Great Tribulation" that's who!

Tom: You're wrong, brother. We're going to watch the whole thing from heaven.

Drew: That's crazy!

(Brian is very uncomfortable with the heated argument that has begun between Tom and Drew, so he moves back into his chair, pulls his legs up, climbs up over the back of the chair, and backs away for a few steps. He then turns and runs away, up stage toward the exit. Drew and Tom are so angry with each other that they do not notice he has left.)

Tom: *(lunging in front of Brian)* Are you calling me crazy!

Drew: *(also lunging in front of Brian)* I am if you're going to talk like that!

Tom: Well, at least I can read the Bible for what it really says.

Drew: Are you saying I can't read?

Tom: *(angrily)* Whatever you're reading is obviously not getting through.

Drew: *(accusingly)* You're the one not listening to the Spirit.

Tom: *(defensively)* Nothing's wrong with my ears.

Drew: Yea, well there's plenty wrong with your brain.

Tom: *(standing & in Drew's face)* I read it like King James translated it.

Drew: *(rising to meet the challenge)* Ah ha! There's your problem. You're reading an ancient translation!

Drew & Tom: Continue arguing feverishly!

Optional freeze: Sermon Part 2, or continue the skit uninterrupted.

LIGHTS: LIGHTS FADE OUT DURING THE ARGUMENT.

(The two of them continue arguing about views of the rapture, or Bible translations until the lights fade out.)

Sound: Guitar rift as a transition (optional)

Scene 3: "No Thanks, Good Sam"

LIGHTS: FADE UP AT STAGE LEFT, ON BRIAN IN HIS CAR.

Sound: Sound effect of a car, refusing to start.

Brian: Not now! *(He puts his head in his arms on the steering wheel)*
I don't have time for this.

(He pantomimes the opening of his car door, and moves to the front of his imaginary car. His back is to the audience as he lifts an imaginary hood and braces it with the support rod. He leans into an imaginary engine, he straightens up, faces the audience, and looks down both sides of the imaginary road in front of him. He turns around to face the engine again.)

Matt: *(coming in from stage left)* Hey, you need some help?

Brian: Yeah, this old car has finally died.

Matt: Can I give you a lift into town?

Brian: It wouldn't be too much trouble?

Matt: No trouble at all. It's the Christian thing to do.

Brian: *(hesitant)* You're a Christian?

Matt: Yes, brother, I am. You too? *(He extends his hand to Brian.)*

(Brian raises his hands away from Matt to signal that he does not want to shake hands and backs away.)

Brian: *(quick to answer)* No...I'm not.
Thanks anyway. I'll walk.

(Brian turns to walk off in the direction of stage left. He leaves a baffled Matt standing alone on stage.)

LIGHTS: FADE OUT ON STAGE LEFT.

Sound: Reprise of the chorus of the song *(optional)*

Sermon continues with Part 3...