

COURTING (D)ANGER

by PAUL MALEY

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: A woman's prayer time is interrupted by a seductive visit by a familiar "friend".

DIRECTOR'S TIP: ANGER should be dressed sharply and is sly, slick, & seductive.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1M, 1F

THEME: Anger, Forgiveness, Prayer

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Mark 11:25

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Starter, Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

JEANNIE

ANGER

PROPS: Three signs: ANGER, HATRED, and BITTERNESS; a Bible; picnic basket; wine glass; bottle of mineral water

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Wireless microphones (optional)

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A living room

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Lights up. JEANNIE, a young woman, sits on the sofa, “preparing” to pray. She starts to say something, stops, frowns, thinks a moment, then opens her Bible at random, closes her eyes, and sticks her finger on a passage. It is Mark 11:25.

JEANNIE: “When you stand praying (*stands, sheepishly*), forgive... if you have anything against anyone. (*thinks a moment*) So that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions.” (*closes her Bible, sits, thinks a moment*) Dear... dear God: No... (*very “piously”:*) Oh gracious Heavenly Father... (*sighs, thinks*) Lord, this has been... (*gets frustrated.* Not a prayer:) Oh, God.

ANGER enters. He is the embodiment of her unforgiving feelings. He wears three signs around his neck: the top, and only visible one, says ANGER in bright red letters. He carries a nice picnic basket.

ANGER: Good evening.

JEANNIE: (*sees him, isn't surprised. He's been here before*) Oh. Hi.

ANGER: Having trouble?

JEANNIE: Well...yes, as a matter of fact.

ANGER: Why don't you just relax? Forget about praying for a minute. You look like you need to talk.

JEANNIE: (*uncomfortable*) Well...I was going to talk to God.

ANGER: (*sets the picnic basket down*) Now, you don't need to do that. (*starts to massage her shoulders*) You're all tense! You need to relax.

JEANNIE: No, I'm fine. I really do think I need to pray.

ANGER: (*stops massaging*) Do what you want. (*sits*) Mind if I stay and listen?

JEANNIE: I'm really not sure I can pray with you here.

ANGER: (*thinks a moment to determine his next move. “Concerned”:*) Why? What's the matter?

JEANNIE: Look, I really just need to settle down and pray.

ANGER: Fine. (*gets up*) I can leave, just say the word. (*She hesitates, he switches back to “concerned”:*) Something is wrong, isn't it?

JEANNIE: No, I just thought I'd....you know.....talk to God about my day.

ANGER: (*sitting again, feeding her feelings*) Today was tough, wasn't it?