

JESUS AND THE STORM

by BILL MCNEIL

GENRE: Reader's Theatre

SYNOPSIS: This reader's theatre parallels the passage from Luke 8:22 - 25 but in a modern day context. The scenarios cover a multitude of situations and there is bound to be something that most everyone can relate to.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This sketch gives us four modern-day disciples facing storms of everyday life: isolated, then crying out for Jesus, then being stilled by his presence. Because this is a story that moves from isolation to community, and it isn't a realistic "slice of life" drama set in someone's living room, you have a lot of creative room to breathe and imagine. Two keys are: keeping things active and thinking about how stage "pictures" tell the story.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 6

TOPIC: Christian Living

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 8:22-25

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Bible Study

CHARACTERS:

NARRATOR
WILLIAM
SUZANNE
PASTOR JONES
BETTY
JESUS

PROPS: None

COSTUMES: Modern clothing

SOUND: Five cordless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Stage

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NARRATOR: Jesus and his followers were out in the midst of life. And as they went, a terrible whirlwind came up around them, threatening to overcome them.

WILLIAM: If I don't get this report in by tomorrow, the team will really get on my case. I could work on it tonight, but it's Parent's Night at school, Katie is getting an award and I promised to go. I guess I can get up early and work on the report. Oh, I can't. I have to meet Jim for our prayer time and coffee. I guess I won't sleep tonight. What's that dear? The washer is doing what? The water is how deep? Arggh. *(Turns upstage)*

SUZANNE: *(To child)* Just a minute, Honey. I'll go over that with you when I get your brother to bed. *(Phone rings)* Hello? Oh, hi, Mary. Yes, I remember tomorrow night is pot-luck. Foods from other cultures? Well, I guess I could find something from Finland. Oh, no problem. Bye. *(Hangs up)* Great, when am I supposed to get that done? Just a minute, Honey. Son, I told you, no story tonight, I have a lot to do. *(Turns upstage)*

PASTOR JONES: *(With a dayplanner in hand)* Mow lawn on Monday, prayer breakfast on Tuesday morning early *(Groans)*, few hours of sermon preparation, then lunch with the city pastors group, *(As one word)* Wednesday night teachers meeting, Bible study, prayer, men's group, being caught by whomever in the hallway to talk about whatever is troubling them which they could take care of if only they tried, little more sermon prep, check the lights, lock the doors. *(Turns upstage)*

BETTY: If I can just get this packing done, we'll be ready for the trip. Romania seems so far away, but if that is where God needs us, then so be it. I wonder what is taking Jim so long to get home. *(Phone rings)* Hello, Yes, this is Mrs. Reynolds. The State Police! Oh no. What is it? An accident... O Lord please, no. Jim has been hurt. How badly? Yes, I can come to the hospital. I'll leave now. *(Hangs up and turns upstage)*

NARRATOR: All this while it seemed that Jesus was asleep, unaware, tuned-out, disinterested. Nearby, but not connected. The followers cried out to Jesus...

WILLIAM: Lord, I can't make it. I'm overwhelmed. I can't do everything that everyone needs me to do. Worker, father, husband, handyman, spiritual brother, disciple. I'm tired, burned out, I don't care. Don't you care that I'm in crisis? *(Freeze)*

SUZANNE: Oh, Lord. I can't remember the last time I was just still...when I could just hold my children and enjoy who they are instead of handling them as another task on my list. I have a garden with nothing in it, piles of papers to work through and very little time to let my husband know how much I love him. Lord, even you seem so distant. I know I don't look for you each day, but when I do find a moment, often in the midst of crisis, you are not there. *(Freeze)*