

WHAT DOES NOT DISAPPOINT

by Joy L. Mason

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: A woman discusses being constantly disappointed by life, and wonders if she deserves disappointment.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This is a quiet sketch. Don't allow the actor to get emotional. The straighter she plays it, the stronger the effect of the sketch.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1

TOPIC: Youth, Depression, Hope

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Psalm 22:5, Romans 5:2-5

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Youth Group, Bible Study

CHARACTERS: A woman of any age

PROPS: 1) A chair or stool, if necessary

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing

SOUND: 1 wireless mike

LIGHTING: General Stage

SETTING: General

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Scene opens with REBECCA sitting either on a chair/stool, or on the edge of the stage.

REBECCA: Most days, I get by. Something small will cheer me, get me through the day. I am not, by nature, a happy person, and maybe that's the problem. Without even trying, life disappoints me.

It's small things mostly, some big things. The coffee shop will be out of the type of bagel I wanted; I'll miss the timing of the lights; someone will take the parking spot I drove around the block for, seconds before I get there myself. Bigger things-I don't get that promotion or that raise; people-friends-break their word; that significant other suddenly isn't so significant. But it doesn't really matter what it is. The result is the same-a heavy weight of things not right pushing down on my heart. Things should be different, I'll think. Things should be better. But I know they won't be.

I guess it's because I know that I'm a disappointment. I don't measure up. I'm too short, too tall, too fat, too thin. I'm not smart enough, didn't go to the right schools, don't belong to the right group, don't play the right sports. I don't have the right job, I don't live in the right neighborhood, I don't love the right people. I don't eat right, don't exercise enough, I drink too much, I drink too little. All the little words and actions and thoughts and ideas I didn't say or do or have-or all that I did, at the wrong time, in the wrong place-it's never enough, or it's too much; it's never right. I'm never right.

So is it any surprise that the world might disappoint me? That people might disappoint me? That God disappoints me?

REBECCA pauses, shakes her head, and with a parting look at the audience, slowly EXITS.

..... *Lights down*

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