

Drama Ministry®

POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

WASTED AWAY

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: A man feels he was taken to Heaven before his time, believing it was God's will for him to make a great Christian movie. Only when it's his turn to give an account of his life does he realize he missed God's plan entirely.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Aaron should be played as a sympathetic character, and not with scorn. He is in the wrong, but as you are touching on something that will prick the heart of everyone, he needs to be handled with respect and not simply put down. He should be optimistic, funny, and likable.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 6 or more

THEME: Christian Living

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 12:13-21

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Illustration

CHARACTERS:

AARON - an aspiring Christian filmmaker

BETH - another believer

PETER the apostle

OTHERS in the waiting room

PROPS: Chairs, a podium, magazines

COSTUMES: Regular clothes for those waiting; a robe for Peter.

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A waiting room in Heaven

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Lights come up on a waiting room filled with chairs. PETER stands behind a podium. AARON is sitting in a chair. BETH sits near him, and two or three others are also seated. As the lights come up, AARON is looking around, not sure where he is or how he got there.

PETER: Mr. Arnold Wainwright?

One of the men gets up and walks to the podium. The man and PETER mime a conversation. AARON picks up a magazine off the chair beside him.

AARON: Saints Quarterly? What kind of magazine is that? *(to BETH)* You ever heard of a magazine called Saints Quarterly?

BETH: Not until I came up here.

AARON: That's all they have, too. Usually, you go to the doctor's they at least have something fun to read like Redbook.

BETH gives him an odd look.

AARON: *(back-tracking)* I mean Sports Illustrated.

BETH: You're not going to find that here.

AARON: I'm not? *(looks around)* Do, uh, do you know where here is?

BETH: The waiting room.

AARON: I can see that. What I don't see is what I'm waiting for. I'm not sick. At least, I don't think I am.

BETH: If you were, you're not any more.

AARON: I'm not?

BETH: You can't be. You're dead.

AARON: Excuse me?

BETH: That guy up there at the podium? That's Peter. And the door behind him? That's the entrance.

The man talking to PETER walks through the door/exit behind PETER.

AARON: The entrance? You mean to Heaven?

BETH: That's right.

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PETER: Kimberly Mulligan?

A woman stands up and walks to the podium.

AARON: Wait, wait, wait! You mean I DIED?

BETH: That's the only way they let you into here.

AARON: Wow, that's a bummer.

BETH: Not if you believe in the Lord, it's not.

AARON: Oh, I believe. Long time believer. It's just... I can't believe I'm gone so soon.

BETH: Why not? The Lord calls us all home at our appointed time.

AARON: That's what I was always told, but I had so much stuff left to do.

BETH: Like what?

AARON: My movie for one thing.

BETH: Your movie?

AARON: Yes! I've been working on it for twenty years!

BETH: You were a filmmaker?

AARON: Yes. Well, no. I mean, I was going to be. It's what I wanted to be.

BETH: Maybe God had other plans.

AARON: That's impossible. This whole movie was about God. It was the perfect combination of drama and comedy, a real prodigal son story brought into today's world and made real for a jaded, unbelieving generation. No sermonettes or altar calls, mind you. This was a real movie, a real story. It was my life's work, and my dream.

BETH: So how come you never made it?

AARON: I was trying to, believe me. But it's hard to raise money for a Christian movie that isn't about Armageddon.

BETH: Really?

AARON: I don't know why, but every person I talked to that wanted to finance a Christian movie wanted Armageddon, the Rapture. And an altar call. No one got my vision. Not a one of them!

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BETH: That's a shame.

AARON: I had plans for two sequels, too. I was gonna build a whole ministry around the series. But instead, I ended up working in customer service for ten years, taking calls from nasty customers and getting cussed at on a daily basis.

BETH: Tell me about it. I used to work in collections.

AARON: I had this one guy, Mitch Morgan, biggest jerk I ever met. Refused to put anything in writing. Did everything by phone. He bilked us out of thousands of dollars, returning material that he, quote, never ordered or that we, quote, made wrong.

BETH: That's pretty shameful.

AARON: Oh there were so many of them. Stewart Allen, the most foul-mouthed guy on the planet. Every time he called, I wanted to wash my ears his language was so filthy. And this one lady, Millie Stafford, always wanted everything yesterday, no matter what it was. She knew we had lead times and stuff, but you know how it goes. You do a person a favor once...

BETH: They expect it every time.

AARON: Exactly. I can't tell you how many times I thought about walking out of there. Might have lost my house, but I had friends I could have moved in with. And I could have made my movie! All those years of my life, wasted away.

The lady talking to PETER exits toward Heaven.

BETH: Maybe you should ask about that.

PETER: Aaron Henderson?

AARON: I think I will.

AARON walks up to PETER.

AARON: I'm Aaron Henderson.

PETER: A pleasure to meet you. Your room has been prepared, and orientation will begin as soon as you are ready.

AARON: Thanks. Listen, I was wondering if maybe a mistake has been made?

PETER: A mistake?

AARON: I spent the last ten years of my life waiting for God to open the door for me

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to make a Christian movie, and it seems that I died before that plan ever came to be. I know it was God's will for me to make that movie, so I was wondering if there's any chance he might have, you know, called me home early on accident?

PETER: Not likely. But if you want me to call up and ask, I can do that.

AARON: Would you?

PETER picks up a phone and dials.

PETER: Yes, this is Peter at Gate 12... I have an Aaron Henderson here, and he's asking if he might have been called home prematurely... Well he says you had given him a dream of making a movie, and that was your plan for his life... Uh huh... Uh huh... *(writes down some notes)* I see... Yes, I thought that might be the case... Okay, I will tell him.

PETER hangs up.

AARON: So what's the verdict?

PETER: No mistake. God's plan for your life was completed.

AARON: Completed? What about the movie?

PETER: I'm sorry, but God never intended on you being a filmmaker. He appreciated your efforts and zeal, but that just wasn't meant to be.

AARON: Are you serious? You can't tell me God's pleased with all that garbage people are making under the Christian film moniker.

PETER: This has nothing to do with God's taste in movies, Aaron. It has everything to do with God placing you right where he wanted you.

AARON: Where? You mean that customer service office?

PETER: Exactly.

AARON: *(sober, surprised)* What?

PETER: God needed someone there to reach some people who desperately needed him. He gave me a few names here. Mitchell Morgan, Millie Stafford...

AARON: This can't be. Please tell me this is a joke.

PETER: It's no joke. This was God's plan. *(pause)* You mean you didn't know?

AARON: No. I was so sure that I was supposed to make that movie, that I... I never imagined... And now it's too late.

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PETER: I'm afraid so.

AARON: (*shakes his head*) All those years. Wasted away.

.....*Fade to black.*

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