

THANKSGIVING DONE WRONG

by Rene Gutteridge

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: When Mike and Jami sit down for their Thanksgiving dinner, Jami's prayer reflects more of what they don't have than what they do.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Mike and Jami are having a conversation we've all had with someone we love. The "no matter what I say they'll negate me" discussion. We've also been in both people's shoes, so the key to directing this script is to try and make both characters as believable as possible. It would be easy to portray Jami as over the top and unsympathetic while watching Mike shrink farther and farther into his own skin. However, in real life we tend to support our loved ones with as much enthusiasm as we can, right up to the last minute. Try to make sure your actors don't "act the end" of the script from the beginning.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Thankfulness

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Ephesians 5:18-20, Psalm 138

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Thanksgiving

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

NARRATOR

MIKE—A young husband

JAMI—Mike's young wife

PROPS: Table, two chairs, two candles, a small turkey, paper plates, silverware, cups, etc.

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Two cordless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Small table set for Thanksgiving

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MIKE is sitting at the dinner table when JAMI brings in the turkey.

MIKE: Looks wonderful!

JAMI: Oh, it's a little dry. It's from the supermarket, not one of those fancy places that sell high-quality turkeys. I did the best I could with it.

MIKE: I'm sure it's fine. Sit down and let's eat!

JAMI: *(Sitting)* Shouldn't we say a prayer first?

MIKE: Oh, of course! It is Thanksgiving, after all. I guess we should thank the Lord for all that we have.

JAMI: Yes.

MIKE: Okay. Well, let's bow our heads, and why don't you start?

JAMI: Me? Why me? I baked the turkey, for crying out loud. I got up at 5 a.m. to start the darn bird and it barely weighs five pounds. Don't you think you could cut me some slack?

MIKE: Oh. Well, praying isn't supposed to be a chore, is it? *(Jami agrees sheepishly)* Alright, I'll start. *(They both bow their heads)* Our Father in Heaven, on this day, this great day of much thanks, we would like to thank you, oh Lord, for all the things you have done for us. Um, like this turkey. We're blessed to have a turkey.

JAMI: I'd hardly call it a turkey, Mike. It's barely poultry. Look at it. It's pathetic.

MIKE: Oh. Well, we thank you, then, that we have a home in which we can eat the turkey...

JAMI: Which, Lord, we would like to sell next year in hopes of buying a bigger, better one.

MIKE: *(Glancing up at Jami)* Um, okay, and we'd like to thank you, Father, for our families...

JAMI: Neither of which could clear their schedules enough to come join us for Thanksgiving.

MIKE: *(Glancing up at Jami again)* Okay, then, thank you for the silverware we're using to eat our dinner.

JAMI: Stainless steal, not silver, dear. Janet next door has silver.

MIKE: Okay, fine. Then thank you for our neighbor, Janet.