

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO BE THANKFUL FOR?

by Stephen D. Larson

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Mary is busy shopping for her family's Thanksgiving Day dinner when Mr. Nobody (a.k.a. Satan) points out that she really has nothing to be thankful about...or does she?

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Because Mr. Nobody is invisible to Mary, it's almost like she's talking to herself, wrestling with her doubts. Mr. Nobody is very smooth, pushing her buttons. At the end, though, it's Mary that's pushing his buttons.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Thankfulness

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Ephesians 5:19-20

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

MARY—a typical wife and mother

MR. NOBODY—subtle master of deception and doubt

PROPS: Shopping cart, groceries (these could be mimed)

COSTUMES: Modern

SOUND: Two wireless microphones, optional background SFX of grocery store music and announcements

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A supermarket

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MARY enters stage right, pushing a shopping cart. She has a grocery list in her hand. She consults it. MR. NOBODY approaches quietly from behind her. He peers over her shoulder.

NOBODY: That's a lot of food.

MARY: Well, we have a lot of company coming and—

She stops and looks around for the person who spoke to her. She doesn't see anybody, so she shrugs and resumes checking her list.

NOBODY: What's all that for?

MARY: Thanksgiving Day is this Thursday, you know.

MARY looks around again, turning to see who is speaking. Nobody moves away, circling her. He stops after a little while and, even though MARY looks right at him, she can't see him.

NOBODY: Thanksgiving, eh? You mean that day where everybody stuffs themselves silly and then sits around watching football?

MARY: Yes, I mean, no! Thanksgiving is...

NOBODY: Yeah, yeah. I know. Thanksgiving is a day set aside for giving thanks. Big deal! What do you have to be thankful about?

MARY: What?

NOBODY: Think about it, Mary. What do you really have that you should be thankful for? Here you are buying all this food for you and all your relatives when your husband barely earns enough to see you through to the next paycheck. Isn't that right?

MARY: Well, yes...

NOBODY: Pretty tough living on so little. I bet you wish your husband could find a better-paying job, don't you?

MARY: He's been looking, but every time he applies for a new position...

NOBODY: They hire someone else. So you all continue to struggle along, paycheck to paycheck. And doesn't one of your kids have some kind of a medical problem?

MARY: Yes, but...

NOBODY: That medicine's pretty expensive, I'll bet. Tsk, tsk. And you're already hurting financially. What a shame! Your mom's not doing too well, either, is she?