



The Heart of a Christian Playwright

D.E.T.O.U.R.

An Original Stage play

By

Cleveland O. McLeish

www.christianplaywright.org

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SYNOPSIS

We all know the prodigal story well. Some of us may even share his testimony and a very powerful testimony it is....but I want to add a new spin on that story.

I am passionate about the coming Rapture of the Church. I believe its the single most unprecedented event that this world will be witness to and the entire population of the world as we know it will be split into two groups...Those who are taken and those who are left behind.

DETOUR examines the life of a young man named Caleb who is not contented with the Christian life. He feels its drab and boring and there has to be more to life. So he leaves home to go on a journey of self indulgence 'denying himself no pleasure' as Solomon once did.

He quickly learns there is no such thing as a free ride and indulgence is just an illusion that blinds us from the truth. The road most traveled leads to a very unpleasant place and the end result to sin is always death. But his choice to return home is just the beginning of his troubles and his Detour may have cost him more than he bargained for.

LIST OF CHARACTERS

MALES

Rudolph
Caleb
John
Bryan
Owner

FEMALES

Janet
Sister Florence
Celeste

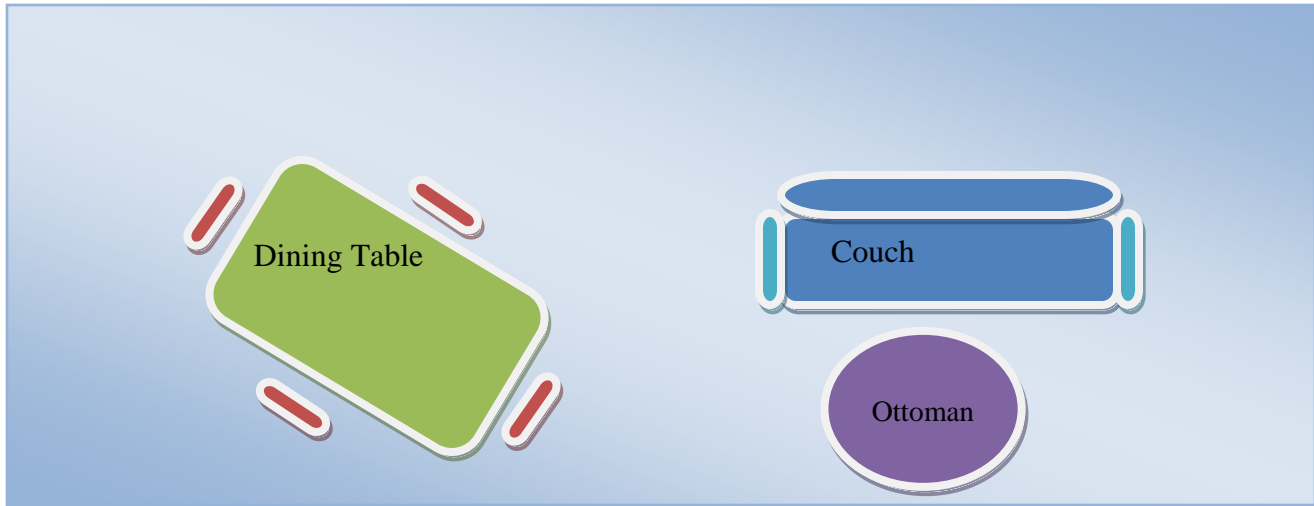
SETTING

SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.

THE SCRIPT

SCENE 1

SETTING: Living Room



LIGHTS UP

Pastor Rudolph James sits to have dinner with his family. Wife Janet and two sons Caleb, the youngest and John, his older brother.

They take turns to share their dinner from the main plates in silence.

This family is organized and disciplined in all they do including having their Sunday dinner together With knife and fork.

MALE VOICE: In this life, good people are often treated as though they were wicked, and wicked people are often treated as though they were good. This is meaningless. So I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people to do in this world than eat, drink and enjoy life. That way they will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives them. (Ecc. 8:14-15)

JANET: Today was lovely.

RUDOLPH: Uhm.

Pause.

JANET: I think the message was relevant.

CALEB: No it wasn't. Dad was preaching about guineps and tofu. Why do all his messages have to have some reference to food?

JANET: Caleb please. Not today.

JOHN: I think it was a good message.

CALEB: You would think so you little zombie! How about developing a mind of your own big brother instead of sopping up what everybody else thinks.

JANET: Caleb!!! You are way out of line.

Uncomfortable pause.

RUDOLPH: I preach so people can understand and relate to what I'm saying. The message was good....but did it accomplish anything.

JANET: I'm sure it did honey. There were many who came to the altar.

RUDOLPH: Yes, but not my son.

CALEB: I'm gonna assume you are talking about me so I will ask why would I need to go to the altar today. You preached about people being like guineps. Some can be stripped from the seed easily while others take a little greater effort. How is that relevant to me?

RUDOLPH: Your attitude, for one.

CALEB: What's wrong with my attitude?

RUDOLPH: It's not Christ-like.

JANET: Are you two really gonna do this again today?

RUDOLPH: I'm just trying to have my dinner.

JANET: I dream of the day the two of you get along. I don't even know what the problem is between you two.

RUDOLPH: Conflict of interest maybe.

CALEB: How so, Pops?

RUDOLPH: I am interested in church and you are not.

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CALEB: Do you have any idea what it's like being a pastors son?

RUDOLPH: Nope. My father made coal and grew callaloo. He went to church twice. His wedding and his funeral.

CALEB: Well then, let me tell you what it is like being your son pops. It feels like my own personal prison. No freedom. No space.

RUDOLPH: Where the presence of God is there is liberty.

CALEB: There is no liberty in being your son. There are just rules, chains, curfews and padlocks. No fun. No freedom.

RUDOLPH: Freedom to do what?

CALEB: Whatever I like.

RUDOLPH: Then maybe you have out grown this roof.

CALEB: Maybe I have.

RUDOLPH: You are nothing but an ungrateful dupe.

Caleb slams his fist on the table.

RUDOLPH: Did you just slam your fist on my table?

CALEB: I apologize.

RUDOLPH: This house is mine. All these furniture are mine. I am the one who took them out on hire purchase and I am still paying for them. In this house you own nothing so curtail that attitude young man.

Caleb gets up from the table.

RUDOLPH: I don't see why you can't be more like your brother?

JANET: Caleb please sit down and finish your dinner.

CALEB: I've lost my appetite mom. Excuse me.

Caleb leaves.

JANET: I cant remember the last time Caleb finish eating his Sunday dinner.

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Pause.

JANET: And you have to stop comparing him to John. You know he hates it.

RUDOLPH: I can't help it. The boy gets under my skin.

JANET: You can't fight fire with fire my love.

RUDOLPH: You shouldn't be taking his side. You saw what he did.

JANET: I'm sure there was a reason.

RUDOLPH: He walked out five minutes into my message and didn't come back till after I finish preaching. I think the reason is clear enough.

Pause.

Janet gets up from the table.

JANET: I will go see if Caleb is ok. Excuse me.

Janet leaves.

Rudolph finishes his meal and taps his mouth with a napkin. He looks over at John.

RUDOLPH: You ok son?

JOHN: Yes sir.

RUDOLPH: You should go feed the pigs and get some rest. You have school tomorrow.

JOHN: Yes sir.

RUDOLPH: And don't worry John. We will be hiring someone to take care of the farm so you won't be so pressured.

JOHN: I appreciate it sir.

RUDOLPH: Good.

JOHN: Excuse me.

John gets up to leave.

RUDOLPH: John...thank you for not being like your brother.

John is not sure how to respond. He nods and exits.

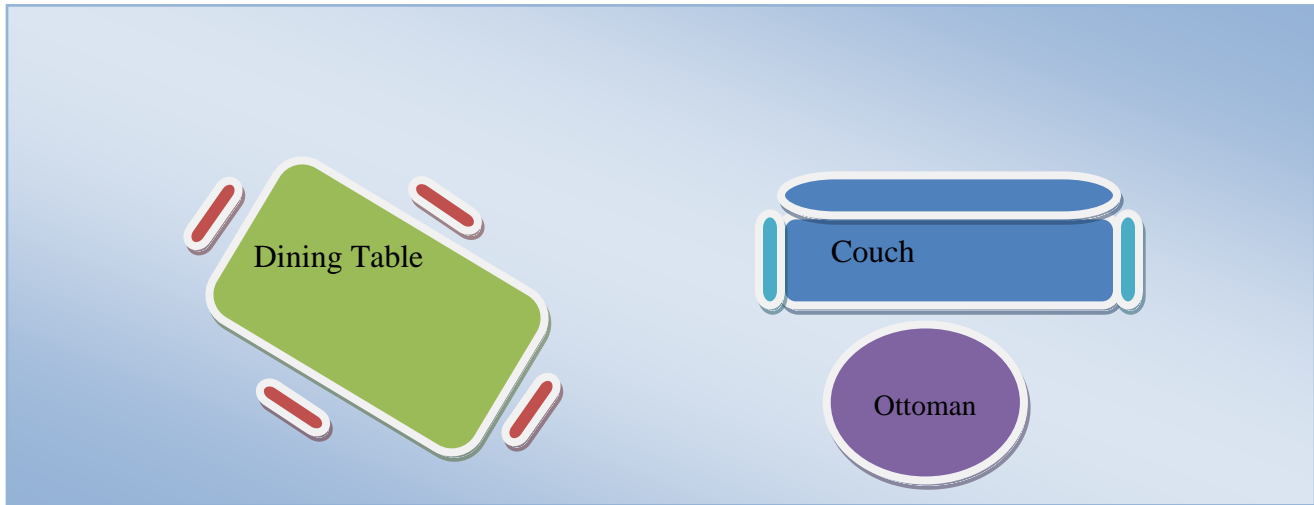
Rudolph is lost in thought for a beat. He gets up and starts to clear the table.

MALE VOICE: He has buried me in a dark place, like a person long dead. He has walled me in, and I cannot escape. He has bound me in heavy chains. And though I cry and shout, he shuts out my prayers. He has blocked my path with a high stone wall. He has twisted the road before me with many Detours. (Lam. 3:6-9). I must break free!

LIGHTS FADE.

SCENE 2

SETTING: Living Room



LIGHTS UP

Pastor Rudolph is seated in the couch reading the Sunday paper.

Caleb enters.

CALEB: We need to talk sir.

Rudolph looks over his glasses at Caleb...then at his watch.

RUDOLPH: Talk time is at five thirty son. I'm having a moment here.

CALEB: You're having a moment....? Your son wants to talk to you...but you are busy having a moment. A moment! What pops, do I make an appointment?

RUDOLPH: That's how it usually works son.

CALEB: Everything for you is a schedule; an appointment. I am your son. I think I should be able to talk to my father when I feel like it.

RUDOLPH: There has to be some order or more so a structure to how we do things.

CALEB: Is there a book for that?

RUDOLPH: Parenting for Dummies.

Pause. Caleb raises an eyebrow.

CALEB: You are taking advice from a book called Parenting for Dummies?

RUDOLPH: It's a good read and besides, It's just the way I....

CALEB: Like to run my house. I know that part.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: So I will see you at five thirty.

Caleb doesn't reply or leave.

RUDOLPH: Can you go find your own moment?

CALEB: We need to talk.

RUDOLPH: Talk about what.

CALEB: This is the routine. On Sunday morning you get up at five thirty and go to the bathroom. You do a number one at twenty five to six, brush your teeth at twenty three to six, do a number two at quarter to six then take a shower at six thirty. Everybody in this house knows that at exactly a quarter to seven and not a second sooner the door to the bathroom will open and you will step out saying "Thank God for soap." You will take a deep breath and disappear in your room to re-surface at seven thirty ready to leave for church.

RUDOLPH: Yeah so what's your point?

CALEB: Then you and somebody will get into some argument because what you took one hour and fifteen minutes to do you expect three grown people to do in half an hour.

RUDOLPH: I plan to put in an extra bathroom. You know that.

CALEB: The routine will still be the same.

RUDOLPH: Why are you having so great an issue over what and how I do my thing?

CALEB: In exactly three minutes you are going to look at your watch and say "My God. Look at the time." You will fold your newspaper neatly and tuck it under your arm as you rise out of that couch and head to your room saying "Time for a nap."

RUDOLPH: You think you have me all figured out don't you.

CALEB: It don't have to be like that sir. You spoke about liberty but true freedom is the ability to do what you feel. I want to wake up at 5:30 Sunday morning and feel like I want to sleep a little late and just do it.

RUDOLPH: The bible says in the book of Proverbs...

CALEB: Can we leave the bible out of this...for once. I am sick and tired of hearing you quote scriptures that have absolutely no relevance to our line of argument.

RUDOLPH: Excuse me!

CALEB: I am sick and tired of a lot of things. I want out.

RUDOLPH: Out of what?

CALEB: I want out of this family.

RUDOLPH: How do you get out of a family? I know you can have a sex-change but you can't possibly have a blood change (*laughs at his own joke*).

CALEB: I can start by getting out of this house.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: Son, normally when children decide to run away they don't really inform their parents.

CALEB: I'm not running away. I'm moving on. I need to live my own life.

RUDOLPH: You should probably get a job first.

CALEB: Look pops...I know you have some money saved up that you intend to split between me and John when you expire. I am asking you for mine now.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: No way.

CALEB: You don't really love me, do you?

RUDOLPH: Of course I do.

CALEB: Then say it.

Pause. Rudolph tries but it's not in his vocabulary.

CALEB: Just give me what you promised so I can leave.

RUDOLPH: Why are you doing this, son?

CALEB: How can you call me your son...and you can't even tell me you love me.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: So you want me to just write you a check and let you go wander around in the wilderness...the same wilderness I spent all your life trying to make you avoid.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: Son, God has a plan for your life. All you are doing right now is planning to take a detour.

CALEB: Its mine to take pops.

RUDOLPH: I guess you have made up your mind then.

CALEB: Yes.

RUDOLPH: Will we ever see you again?

CALEB: Highly unlikely.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: Never you forget where you coming from son.

CALEB: Right now I am just concerned about where I'm going.

RUDOLPH: Where is that?

CALEB: Anywhere but here.

Caleb exits.

Rudolph looks at his watch.

RUDOLPH: My God. Look at the time.

He folds the newspaper and tucks it under his arm as he rises from the love seat.

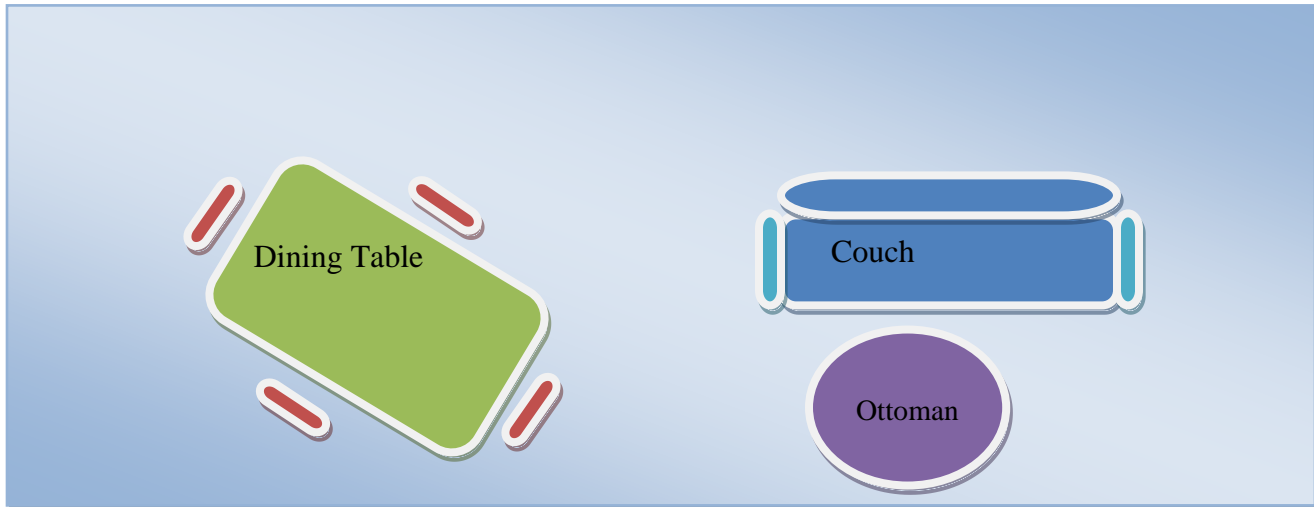
RUDOLPH: Time to take a nap.

Rudolph stops to consider....he exits.

LIGHST FADE.

SCENE 3

SETTING: Living Room



LIGHTS UP

John is reading a book CS.

Janet enters in her bath-robe, tooth-brush in mouth and a large towel draped over her Shoulders.

JANET: What time is it?

John looks at his cell phone.

JOHN: Its six forty four.

JANET: One more minute to....

Rudolph appears coming from the bathroom.

RUDOLPH: Thank God for soap.

He inhales deeply and exits.

JANET: Something is wrong.

JOHN: Yeah I know. He came out one minute too soon.

Pause.

JANET: I know this thing with Caleb is killing him. But he refuses to talk about it.

JOHN: Is my brother really leaving?

Caleb enters. Janet sees him walking in.

JANET: Seems so. You should go use the bathroom John. You know your father will be out in ten minutes wondering why we are not ready for church.

JOHN: Ok mom.

John leaves.

JANET: What is it with you and your father?

CALEB: Ask him.

JANET: I am asking you. You have a responsibility as a son to honour your father.

CALEB: You want to quote scriptures mom...here is one. Provoke not your children to wrath.

JANET: Your father loves you.

CALEB: So you keep saying...but he never says it. He sure doesn't show it. He spends all his time doing two things...preaching and preparing his message.

JANET: He provides for us as a father and a husband. Is there anything we have ever lacked?

CALEB: Listen to what you are saying mom. We do everything according to the book. If he gives me what is mine I can provide for myself. I can't stay here mom or I am going to lose my mind. I am like a bird with wings who has never been given the chance to fly.

JANET: Not every bird with wings is supposed to fly.

CALEB: No use trying to talk me out of it.

JANET: Are you going to church today?

CALEB: It's highly unlikely.

JANET: Your father will not be pleased.

CALEB: Is it even possible to please him.

JANET: You know your father lives the bible to a tee. Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

CALEB: He is over righteous.

JANET: Can you really be over-righteous.

CALEB: We never go anywhere but church. Life has passed us by mom...look at you. When is the last time you guys went out on a date? When is the last time you dance? You were a dancer once. I have seen the pictures.

JANET: Dancing took me to a place once that I never want to return to. To move forward sometimes you have to leave some things behind.

CALEB: Well, I am not willing to do that.

JANET: I know where you are son. The road you are considering will take you to a very unpleasant place. You can either believe me and forget taking this detour or you can go ahead and find out for yourself.

CALEB: I guess I will be finding out for myself.

Rudolph enters all dressed.

RUDOLPH: Why aren't you guys ready for church? Do we have to do this every Sunday?

Janet hugs Caleb and exits.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: That goes for you two young man.

CALEB: I'm not going to church today.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: I don't seem to be hearing so well. It sounded like you said you are not going to church today.

CALEB: I did say that.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: Well I assume that if you were sick you would be in bed.

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Pause.

RUDOLPH: Young man...go get ready for church.

CALEB: I'm not going.

RUDOLPH: Devil I rebuke you in the name of Jesus. Release my son. I declare deliverance now in the worthy name of Jesus.

Pause. Caleb just folds his arms and look away.

RUDOLPH: Oh...so you a stubborn demon huh.

Rudolph removes his jacket and rolls up his sleeve.

RUDOLPH: No demon will have authority in my house. Caleb my son...hang in there. Today is your day to be free.

CALEB: I am not demon possessed.

Rudolph grabs Caleb's head with both hands.

RUDOLPH: Come out you lying stubborn demon. In the name of Jesus come out! Hang in there my son...this could get a bit rough.

Rudolph throws Caleb down in the couch and start beating him with the bible.

RUDOLPH: In the name a Jesus...in the name a Jesus....in the name a Jesus...

CALEB: Ok...ok. I will go to church. Just get off me please.

RUDOLPH: Are you delivered my son?

CALEB: Yes pops...whatever it was telling me not to go to church is definitely gone now.

RUDOLPH: There is power in the name a Jesus.

Rudolph starts to straighten himself.

CALEB: Pops...I am still serious about leaving.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: Can we talk about it later?

CALEB: I don't plan to be here later so we should talk about it now.

RUDOLPH: Where is all this coming from son?

CALEB: All my life I have been living your dream. You wanted me to do a Bachelors Degree in Theology...I did. You wanted me to take up Ministers Training...I did. But that's not me pops.

RUDOLPH: I thought it's what you wanted.

CALEB: I did it because it's what you wanted.

RUDOLPH: Why would you do it because you think it's what I wanted you to do?

CALEB: I thought you wanted me to do it so I did.

RUDOLPH: Then what do you want?

CALEB: That's what I hope to find out...but I can't do that here because I will always be seen as a pastors son.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: I will not allow you to leave this house and go get yourself entangled with the world. I can't do it.

CALEB: This is my choice.

RUDOLPH: You are my son and as long as I am alive you will abide by my rules.

CALEB: Then I wish you were dead.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: You don't mean that.

CALEB: I don't want to be a part of this, pops. You have held me back long enough and I do hate you for that. Its time I found my own way and I will do it with or without your blessing.

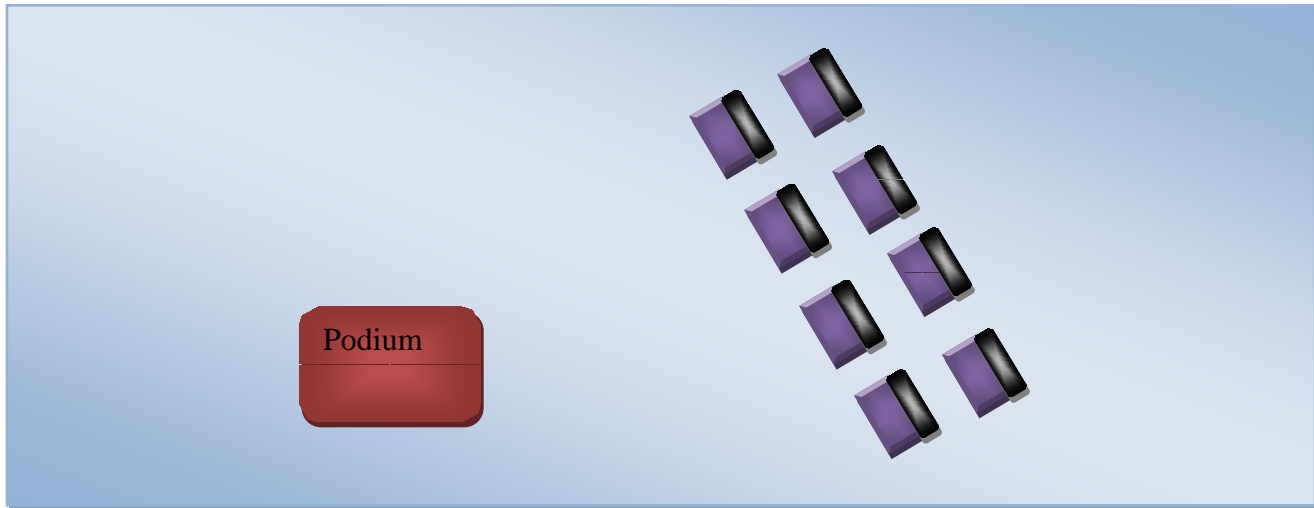
Caleb exits.

Pause.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 4

SETTING: Church Setting



LIGHTS UP

Have a singer do Chris Tomlin's 'How Great is our God.' [Click here](#) to see video. This will give the feel of a church service.

At the end of the song Pastor Rudolph.

RUDOLPH: Praise the Lord saints.

Those on the podium should lead the praise and prayer in support of the Pastor.

RUDOLPH: God has brought us through another week...and a challenging week it was...but we are here. Amen. Through the fire and through the flood God has seen us through. Anybody else in this house had a rough week.

Responses.

RUDOLPH: Amen. God has a word for us today, praise the Lord. *(puts on his glasses)* I'm gonna ask somebody to read for me from Psalms 1.

SIS. FLORENCE: Blessed is the man.

RUDOLPH: Blessed is the man.

SIS. FLORENCE: Who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked.

RUDOLPH: Who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked.

SIS. FLORENCE: Or stand in the way of sinners.

RUDOLPH: Or stands in the way of sinners.

SIS. FLORENCE: Or sit in the seat of mockers.

RUDOLPH: Or sit...are we getting this?...Or sit in the seat of mockers.

SIS. FLORENCE: But his delight is in the law of the Lord.

RUDOLPH: But his delight is in the law of the Lord.

SIS. FLORENCE: And on his law he meditates day and night.

RUDOLPH: And on his law.....some of us don't even read our bibles. But God gives a promise to those who do. Pay attention now. Read on my sister.

SIS. FLORENCE: He is like a tree planted by the streams of water.

RUDOLPH: He is like a tree planted by the streams of water. Uhm uhm!

SIS. FLORENCE: Which yields its fruit in season.

RUDOLPH: Which yields its fruit in season.

SIS. FLORENCE: And whose leaf does not wither.

RUDOLPH: Thank you Sis. Florence. David said thy word have I hid in my heart...that I will into sin against thee. When you put the word inside you. Amen. The bible says out of you will flow rivers of living water. I feel like preaching today.

He takes a pause to drink some water.

RUDOLPH: I think I'm gonna need more than water today. Can someone get me a red bull please?

He drinks some more water.

RUDOLPH: (*preaches TD JAKES style with much conviction*) I am thinking about ackee. It grows on a tree that is planted in the ground. It bears in seasons. It can be poisonous but in due season the ackee is fit for consumption. Ackee is multi-dimensional. It has three sides. Some have two seeds and others have three. We are like the ackee. The bible says we will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth fruit.

Water is a source of life and sustenance for the tree. Without it the tree would die and there would be no fruit. A tree that bears no fruit will be cast in the fire.

Drinks some more water.

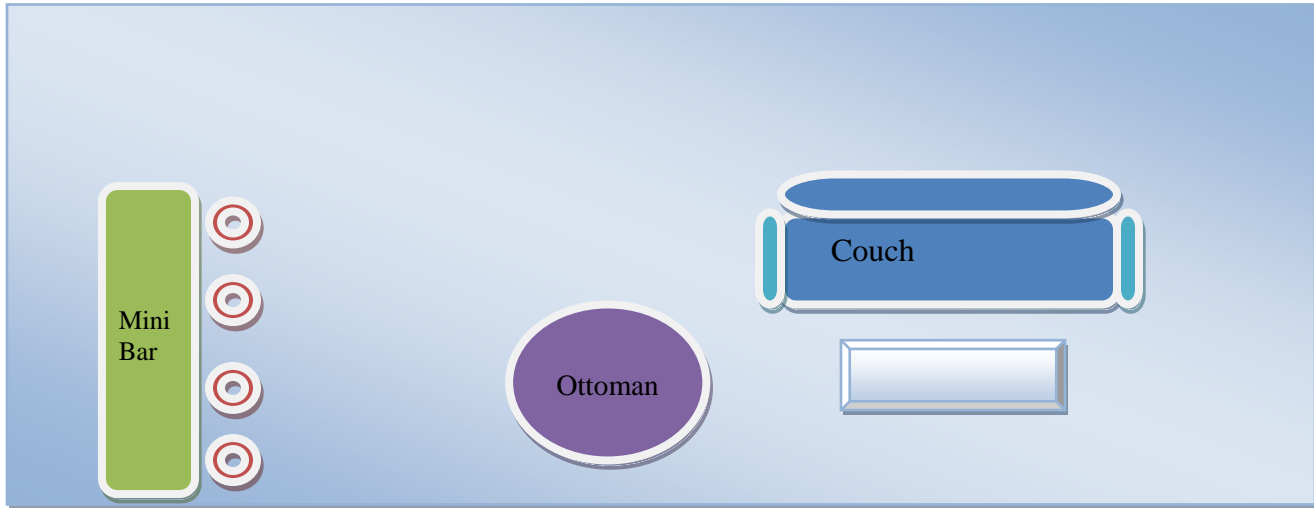
RUDOLPH: I did some research on the ackee tree and this is what I found. Amen. Ackee is a fruit that grows on the ackee tree. Ah ah. The Ackee tree grows to about 30 ft. high, & bears bright red fruit. Ah ah. The fruit ripen to reveal pods of yellow edible Ackee, each with a black seed. Ah ah. Ackee is usually prepared with salt fish & onions. Bacon can be substituted for the salt fish. Ah ah. The flavor & texture is somewhat like scrambled eggs. Ackee is also the main ingredient in Jamaica's national dish. Ahh, I knew I wouldn't get an amen right there. Ackee is a national dish. Ah ah! We don't know who we are in God. Ah ah! We think we are ordinary people but I am here to tell somebody today Ah ah that we aint ordinary. The bible describes us as a peculiar people, a holy nation...a royal priesthood. God has called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light. We have reason to rejoice today. *(pause to reflect)* We face many challenges from day to day and as I close some of you may notice that my eldest son is not here today. The bible says that in the last days many will fall to seducing spirits. We may think that we have time to take the long journey of self discovery but judging by the signs of the times...the clock has stopped ticking. The hand has stopped moving and as a church I want us to agree today on behalf of my son and others like him that wherever he is and whatever he is doing, God will help him to find his way back home.

Pause.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 5

SETTING: Club



LIGHTS UP

SFX: Upbeat music.

Caleb is seated at a table with a girl on his left and one on his right. He drinks alcohol from a glass That is quickly refilled every time it gets empty. One of the girls consistently whispers something in His ear. He reaches for his wallet and gives her some cash. The other lady also whispers something In his ears. She gets some cash too. Both ladies excuse themselves.

ENTER BRYAN SINGER, Classy looking fellow.

BRYAN: Whaddup CJ?

CALEB: King Solomon says it best. Eat, drink and enjoy the fruits of your labour.

BRYAN: You should go easy bro.

CALEB: One life to live. Isn't that what you always say? Live each day as if it's the last.

BRYAN: Didn't know you buy it being all up in our faces with all that Jesus stuff.

CALEB: Let's leave the past where it belongs.

Bryan pours himself a drink and refills Caleb's glass.

CALEB: This is my definition of liberty. I wake up when I feel like it...I drink when I feel like it and I can have any girl I want.

BRYAN: For the right price.

CALEB: Money answers all things.

BRYAN: If the bible is right about some things...wouldn't it be right about everything.

CALEB: Why are you talking about the bible? You have never showed any interest in what I use to say.

BRYAN: Don't mean I don't go home and think about it.

CALEB: The bible and everything it represents is just another level of oppression. It's just another means of enslaving the mind of the people. I am liberating myself from all that so if you want to talk to me...talk to me about cars, money and girls. Nothing else matters to me right now.

BRYAN: I got my home-boy to line up a nice set a wheels for you.

CALEB: Now you talking my language.

BRYAN: Its gonna cost you Twenty Grand.

CALEB: Just tell me the time and the place. I also want a decent apartment in Jacks Hill. Where all the classy people live.

BRYAN: What's wrong with the one I got you?

CALEB: I am tired of it.

BRYAN: You have only been there a month.

CALEB: That's two weeks too long man. I want to live like Solomon. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.

BRYAN: You sure about that.

CALEB: Yeah.

Bryan takes out a bag with some white substance.

CALEB: What is that?

BRYAN: If you want to go all the way...this is the thing that will take you there.

Pause.

BRYAN: You wanna ride in the fast lane you gotta go with the flow. You gimme two grand for that bag and I guarantee you before you sniff the last drop you and Jesus will be having a picnic on the same cloud.

Caleb takes the bag and stares at it.

CALEB: I have never done drugs.

BRYAN: Its one two man. This stuff is user friendly.

CALEB: I don't know about this man.

BRYAN: Girls, fast cars and drugs. It's society's trinity man. The perfect combination.

Pause.

CALEB: Two grand?

BRYAN: Small price to pay for daily trips to heaven and beyond.

Two policeman burst onstage.

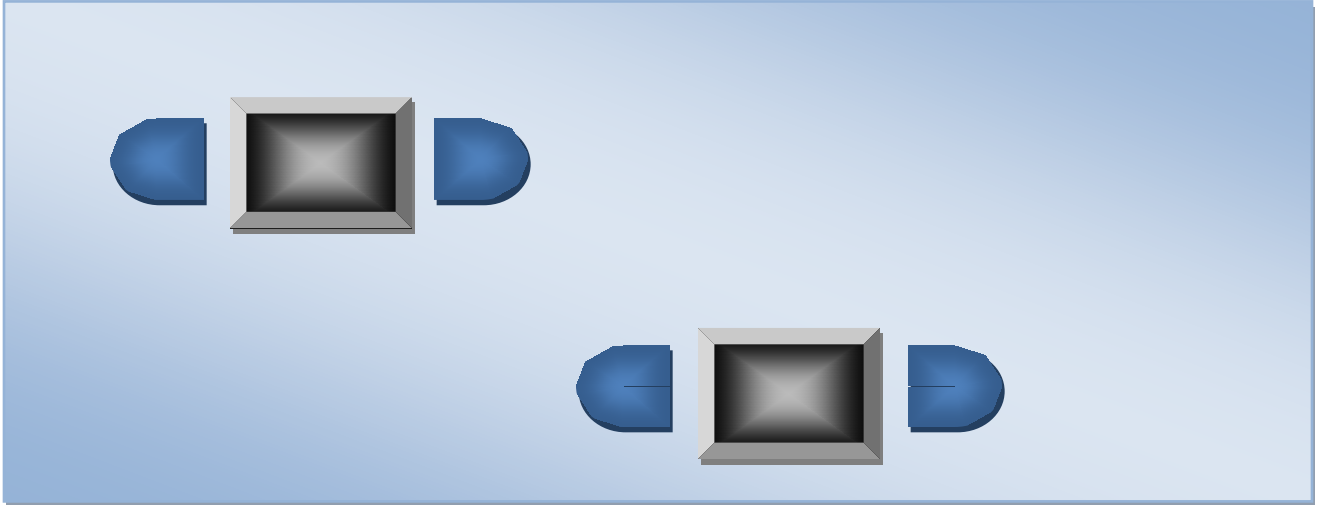
POLICEMAN: Nobody move!

Caleb freezes holding the bag of white stuff.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 6

SETTING: In Jail



LIGHTS UP

There is a small table with two chairs. One of the chairs is occupied by Rudolph. There is one other table with a prisoner talking to one of his relatives. A security guard stands nearby keeping watch.

Caleb enters and sits at the table opposite his father.

CALEB: What do you want pops?

RUDOLPH: It's nice to see you too Caleb.

CALEB: I don't need a guilt trip or pity party from you.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: Not seeing you for a month is one thing....getting a call that you are in jail. That's something else. Getting the call from someone other than you...that's disappointing. Is this what you wanted?

CALEB: It feels better to be in jail than in the same house with you.

Pause.

RUDOLPH: Look son, I know you are angry and maybe even bitter but that don't justify you making poor choices.

CALEB: At least they are my choices totally independent of other influences.

RUDOLPH: Why do you hate me so much?

CALEB: You always said God hated sin but loved the sinner. I don't hate you pops but I do hate your ways. It was never easy being your son and abiding by all your rules and way of life.

RUDOLPH: I tried to raise you the best way I know how.

CALEB: What are you doing here pops?

RUDOLPH: I came to make your bail.

CALEB: Why?

Pause.

CALEB: You still can't say it. Three words and you can't say it.

RUDOLPH: I want you to come home.

CALEB: Did you know that when someone gets arrested they are entitled to one phone call.

RUDOLPH: Yes.

CALEB: Don't you think it strange that you are not the one I called.

RUDOLPH: I know we have our differences.

CALEB: No pops. Not differences. Between you and me it's far more than difference of opinion and you were right about one thing. I lost interest in church.

RUDOLPH: Have you thought about where you are coming from...and where you are now.

CALEB: Everyday.

RUDOLPH: And you choose this lifestyle.

CALEB: Everyday.

RUDOLPH: You spent the night in jail.

CALEB: Just a small pit stop in the journey.

RUDOLPH: The god of this world has blinded you my son.

CALEB: Even so, I am having the time of my life. I don't need you...or God.

Bryan enters with Celeste.

Celeste kisses Caleb.

Rudolph looks away.

CALEB: Pops, meet my concubine Celeste and my best man Bryan. Guys, this is my pops.

Celeste waves at him as Bryan shakes his hand.

BRYAN: CB talks about you all the time.

RUDOLPH: Really.

BRYAN: Naw. He never mentions you. Anyway, boys and girl we gotta go. Caleb you are a free man.

CALEB: How? They caught me holding the bag.

BRYAN: As you said, money answers all. I bought your freedom so you owe me 30 grand. Let's bounce. We got things to discuss.

Bryan and Celeste leaves.

CALEB: Friends in high places pops. I'm sorry you wasted the trip.

Caleb turns to leave.

RUDOLPH: My son...if you forget everything I taught you, don't forget this one thing...everybody needs God.

CALEB: Yeah, whatever.

Caleb leaves.

Rudolph clasps his hands in prayer.

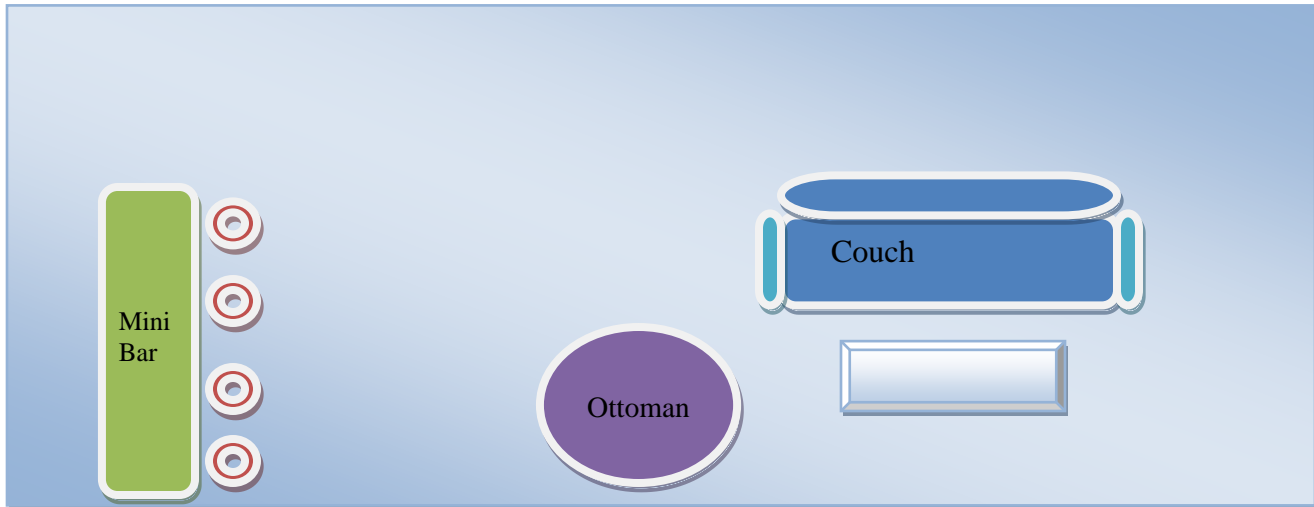
RUDOLPH: What else can a father do for his son but commit him to you Lord. May he find you in all this mess before it's too late.

Pause.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 7

SETTING: Back in da club



LIGHTS UP

Caleb wakes up alone with a huge hangover. He rubs his head and looks around trying to remember The events of the past night.

CALEB: Celeste...Bryan. Where are you guys? God my head hurts.

Caleb tries to get up but falls back in the coach.

OWNER enters with a tray. On the tray is a receipt and credit card.

CALEB: Where is everybody?

OWNER: They left a few hours ago.

CALEB: They wouldn't leave without me.

OWNER: They did.

CALEB: Why?

OWNER: That's a question for them. My only concern is you settling this bill.

CALEB: You have my credit card.

OWNER: I tried it twice. It declined.

CALEB: What about my debit card?

OWNER: Insufficient funds.

CALEB: No way!

Caleb takes the receipt and looks at it.

CALEB: Are you kidding me?

Pause.

CALEB: I owe you four hundred grand?

OWNER: You owe for credit you have made over the past five months here in this club as well as rent for my place up in Jacks Hill.

CALEB: You are my landlord?

OWNER: Yes and as much as I am enjoying this conversation, I only want you to settle this bill and leave.

CALEB: Hold on a sec! Are you telling me I haven't been paying my bills?

OWNER: Well sir, the books cannot lie and the books say you owe.

CALEB: Bryan had access to all my accounts and he has been paying my bills.

OWNER: Bryan and your other friends left and said you would take care of it. I need to settle this today so you need to tell me if we are gonna do this the easy way or the hard way.

CALEB: How could they do this to me?

OWNER: If there is one thing I have learnt in this business it's that money has no friends and shows no favoritism. What you need to do is tell me how you plan to settle this bill if you have no money.

CALEB: I don't know.

Pause.

OWNER: Well, you can't leave here until this bill is settled. Don't you have someone you can call?

Pause.

CALEB: No.

Owner takes a seat.

OWNER: Well, can't say I haven't seen this before.

CALEB: Seen what?

OWNER: The story of the prodigal son. You would think that after 2000 years since the story was first told you young people would learn.

CALEB: I don't know what you are talking about.

OWNER: I know you son. I have been to your father's church. I have seen you sing on the choir and was more than disappointed to see you here. What you had is what everybody needs and you left it all behind.

CALEB: You don't know me.

OWNER: Maybe not. But I know the road you are on and believe it or not...whoever you are and however different you might think you are from everybody else...this road takes you to the same place.

CALEB: If you are so knowledgeable of right and wrong...why are you here?

OWNER: Because I'm a fool in love with money who is too weak to walk away from it. But I do have respect for the church and people like your father and know that's where I should or need to be. I would like to think that I am on the road to God and occasionally I pass people like you going the opposite way and I do wonder.

CALEB: What do I do now?

OWNER: You are going to start paying your debt.

CALEB: How?

OWNER: Normally I would file charges and let you spend time in prison. But because of who your father is, I will be a little more lenient. I'm giving you a job.

CALEB: A job? In this club.

OWNER: Not exactly. I have a pig farm.

CALEB: I don't think so.

OWNER: It's your choice son.

Pause.

CALEB: If I agree to work on the pig farm...how would that work?

OWNER: I pay ten dollars an hour, so if you work 24 hours your debt should be settled in.....four and a half years.

Caleb considers. Overwhelmingly he breaks down in tears.

OWNER: Your choices either make you or break you, son. There is no such thing as a free ride.

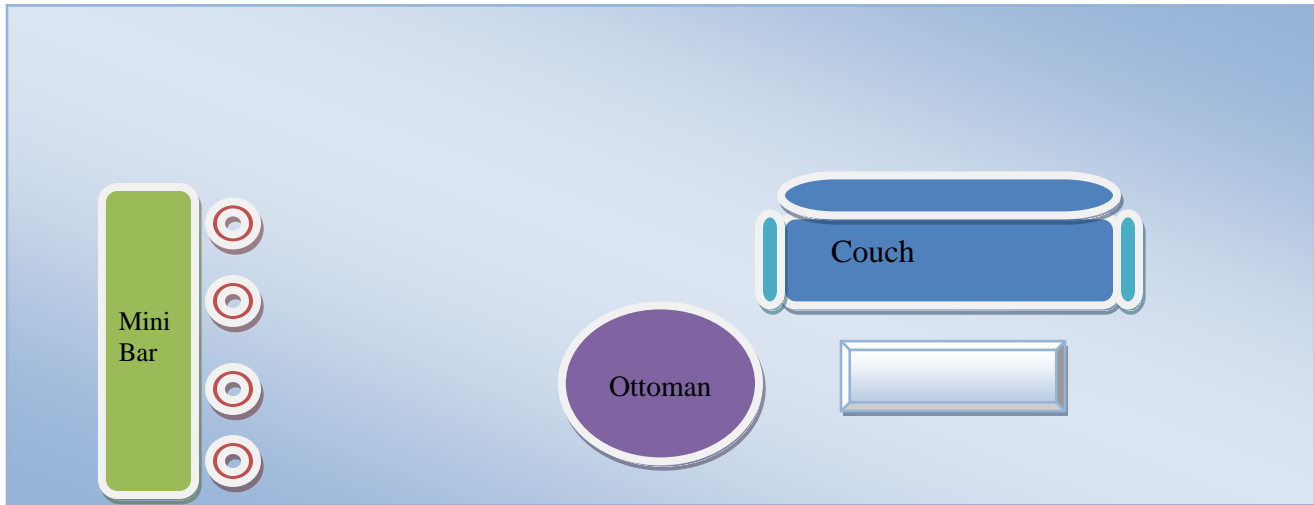
Owner takes Caleb by the arm and lead him offstage.

LIGHTS OUT

MALE VOICE: Jerusalem's streets once bustling with people, are now silent. Like a window broken with grief, she sits alone in her mourning. Once the Queen of nations, she is now a slave. She sobs through the night; tears stream down her cheeks. Among all her lovers, there is no one left to help her. All her friends have betrayed her, they are now her enemies. (Lam. 1:1-2)

SCENE 8

SETTING: Back in da club



LIGHTS UP

Bryan and Celeste on in da club having drinks and laughing at each other's jokes.

A ragged and dirty Caleb enters. He sees them and his face twist in noticeable rage. He goes over to Them.

BRYAN: Do I know you man? (*turns to Celeste*) Babe, you got any change to give this ragged freak?

CELESTE: No change sugar.

CALEB: I have been living like this for five years. No home. No friends. No money.

BRYAN: That's sad man.

CALEB: Is that all you have to say.

BRYAN: I don't see what that has to do with me.

Caleb grabs Bryan by the collar. Bryan pulls out a knife and eases Caleb off.

BRYAN: Easy fool...you getting my silk dirty.

CALEB: I thought you were my friends.

BRYAN: If friends are people who take you for what you got..we were friends.

CALEB: So now you know me.

BRYAN: Honestly did not recognize you bro. You look different. Smell different too. Is that pig poo I smell?

Pause.

CALEB: How could you do this?

BRYAN: This was your choice bro. Not mine. You wanted to live life in the fast lane. That don't come cheap.

CALEB: You pretended to be my friends.

BRYAN: In my world the word friend is relative.

CELESTE: You should go home Caleb. You don't belong here.

CALEB: Home? I have been eating pig food for five years. I can't tell the last time I had a bath and you are talking to me about home. My home is with pigs.

CELESTE: Your home is where your heart is.

Pause.

CALEB: I thought you loved me.

CELESTE: Maybe I don't know what love is.

BRYAN: You know, I don't think the boss-man would appreciate you being in his club like this. Bad public relations.

CALEB: The world is round Bryan. What goes around usually comes right back around.

BRYAN: You shoulda thought a that before you hooked up with us.

CELESTE: I wonder if you could bring yourself to say it.

CALEB: Say what?

CELESTE: That your father was right.

Pause.

BRYAN: As much as I am enjoying this little reunion...we got some business on the road to take care of...soooo....see you pal.

Bryan is about to pat Caleb on his shoulders but decide not to.

Celeste leaves right behind Bryan.

MALE VOICE: The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet still I dare to hope when I remember this: The unfailing love of the Lord never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. (Lam. 3:19-22)

Owner enters.

OWNER: Why are you in here?

Pause.

OWNER: You are chasing away my customers.

CALEB: I'm sorry.

OWNER: You should go...

CALEB: ...Feed the pigs. I know.

OWNER: No. I mean you should go home.

CALEB: I don't understand.

OWNER: You have paid your debt in full with a little extra.

Owner takes some bills from his wallet and hand to Caleb.

OWNER: Should be enough to get you decent and take you home.

CALEB: I'm free.

OWNER: Yes. Please go home.

CALEB: I can't.

OWNER: Why not?

CALEB: They will never accept me back as their son.

OWNER: You might not have to worry about that.

CALEB: Why?

OWNER: The world has changed. Something unprecedented has happened but I can't tell you. You will just have to see it for yourself.

Owner leaves without giving Caleb an opportunity to ask any further questions.

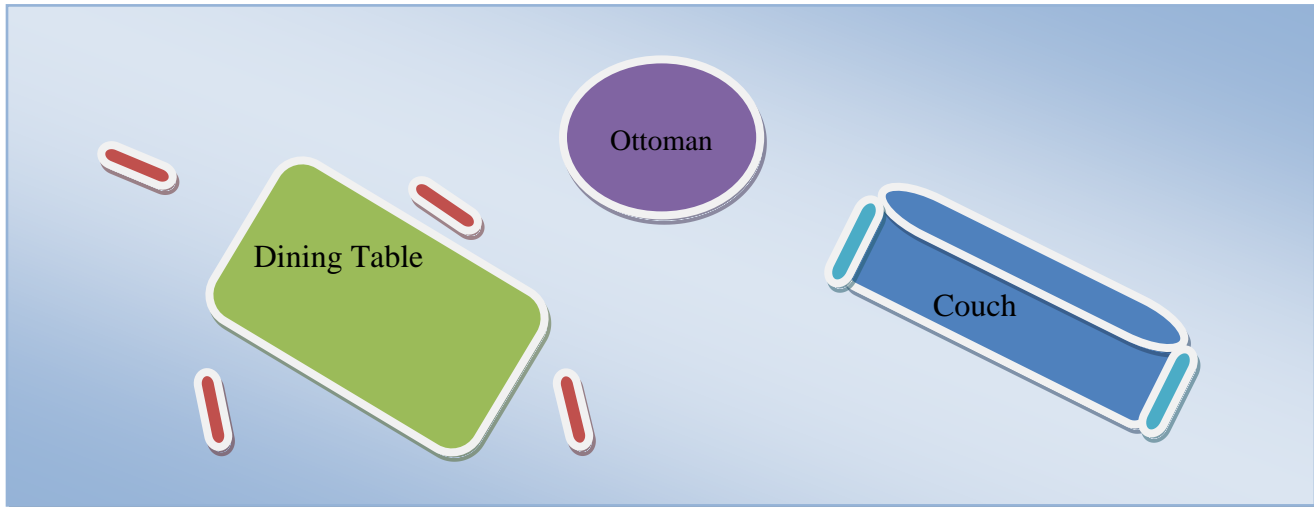
MALE VOICE: Jerusalem has sinned greatly, so she has been tossed away like a filthy rag. All who once honored her now despise her, for they have seen her stripped naked and humiliated. All she can do is groan and hide her face. She defiled herself with immorality with no thought of the punishment that would follow. Now she lies in the gutter with no one to lift her out. 'Lord see my deep misery,' she cries. 'The enemy has triumphed.' (Lam. 1:8-9)

Caleb exits.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 9

SETTING: Living Room – Table at CS with four chairs.



LIGHTS UP

Caleb enters.

There is something remarkably different about his past home. The furniture is not dusted, two of The dining room chairs are toppled over; a picture hangs loosely from the walls and there are Dirty dishes on the table.

There is also a suit of clothing over the chair where Rudolph used to sit at dinner and the same over Janet's and Johns chair.

CALEB: *(calls offstage)* Pops.

No answer.

CALEB: Mom!

SIS FLORENCE VOICE: They are not here.

Sis Florence walks out. She is ruffled and looks hungry and dehydrated.

CALEB: Sis. Florence.

SIS. FLORENCE: *(laughs a little)* Sister...now that's funny.

CALEB: What are you doing here?

SIS. FLORENCE: I wouldn't be here if I was really a Sister.

CALEB: Why do you look like you just crawled out of the gutter?

SIS. FLORENCE: Strange. I was just about to ask you the same thing.

CALEB: What's going on? Where is my family?

SIS. FLORENCE: They are gone.

CALEB: Gone where? Did they move? Why would their clothes still be here?

SIS. FLORENCE: You ask a lot of questions.

CALEB: Maybe because I am not getting any answers.

SIS. FLORENCE: To answer your questions is to face the answers myself. Maybe I don't want to do that.

CALEB: Fine. I will just go check upstairs. You are acting crazy.

Caleb heads for the exit.

SIS. FLORENCE: Don't waste your time. There is nobody here but me and you.

CALEB: My father loved this house. He would not leave just like that.

SIS. FLORENCE: He would...he did. For a better house.

CALEB: Where?

SIS. FLORENCE: Where the streets are made of gold and there are no tears.

Pause. Caleb starts to get an uneasy feeling in his stomach.

CALEB: Are they dead?

SIS. FLORENCE: No son. We are.

CALEB: I am not dead...I don't feel dead...You are not making any sense.

Sis. Florence reaches for her bible.

SIS. FLORENCE: Maybe this will shed some light on the situation for you. Matthew 24:37-42 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

CALEB: What are you saying?

SIS. FLORENCE: We are the ones who were left.

Caleb's knees become weak. He finds somewhere to sit.

CALEB: The rapture.

SIS. FLORENCE: Uhm.

CALEB: When?

SIS. FLORENCE: About eight months ago. Where have you been Caleb? I am surprised you don't know. The media was all over it. It's not every day one 200 million people just disappear off the face of the earth.

CALEB: I had no access to the outside world.

SIS. FLORENCE: Apparently.

Pause.

CALEB: This can't be happening.

Sis. Florence hands Caleb a letter she has stored in her bag.

SIS. FLORENCE: Your father left you a letter.

Caleb takes the letter and opens it.

RUDOLPHS VOICE: My son. I miss you. I look for you to return to me every single day, it's hard to believe that four years has gone since you left. The last time I saw you things never quite panned out the way I had hoped and there was much that went unsaid. I am sorry. So much has changed in four years and I have had to face myself and the choices I made over the years. I just wanted you to know that I love you. It's so easy to write and I never quite understood why it was so hard to say but I have been practicing and when I see you again I

will be able to say it. My father never told me...but I will tell you. We have a lot of catching up to do Caleb and you will be glad to know that...wait, I just heard a sound. It sounded like a trumpet.....

Caleb breaks down in tears.

SIS. FLORENCE: Not quite the way you thought it would have worked out eh? No fatted calf...no party to welcome the prodigal son back home.

CALEB: Why are you here? You were an active member of the church serving on many committees and singing on the choir. Why were you left behind?

SIS. FLORENCE: I knew about Jesus Christ from what I read and what other people told me but I never met Him. I only prayed and read my bible when I went to church but there was no relationship. I never fully surrendered myself to Him because I still wanted to do my own thing.

CALEB: You were an hypocrite.

SIS. FLORENCE: We are all hypocrites at some point or another. Pretending to be someone we are not. It's human nature.

CALEB: Keep telling yourself that.

SIS. FLORENCE: The thing is...everything I thought mattered...everything I thought had value means absolutely nothing now. I would have given it all to be called a friend of God.

CALEB: We all have regrets.

SIS. FLORENCE: But now we know the truth.

CALEB: Now is too late.

Sis Florence sits beside Caleb hugging him as the tears begin to flow.

LIGHTS FADE

MALE VOICE: This is the voice of a man who knew the word but never knew the writer; who knew salvation but never knew the savior. There remains just a few of us who will die before this seven year period is over because we know the truth. The anti-christ has assumed his throne in the temple of God. To buy food, clothes, pay bills and work we have to take his mark. Those who don't die. If you are in the reach of my voice then there is hope. This world was never meant to last but eternity is forever and there is only one of two places that you will spend eternity. God is real...Jesus the real. The choice to accept this is yours. My name is Caleb and this is my testimony. I am the Prodigal Son who did not make it back home in time.

Fade to Black