

THE TRIAL II

“Can Jesus’ Blood Truly Cleanse a Man From Sin?”

Original Stage play

by

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LIST OF CHARACTER

June	female, late 20's
Michael	male, late 20's
Pastor James	male, early 50's
Deacon Myers	male, late 30's
Senior Sister	female, late 40's
Minister Lee	female, 50'ish
Kurt	male, early 30's
Mild Meika	female, mid 20's

SETTING

Simple/ Elaborate Church Meeting Room.

SYNOPSIS

June's Past is something she would rather forget than remember. She has accepted Jesus now as her personal saviour and is living the sweetly saved life of someone who knows what it means to be cleansed by Jesus' blood. All is well...until Michael, the Pastor's son, proposes to her. Now her future is in jeopardy unless she faces all the ghost and wounds of her past in a trial that will affect everyone involved.

THE SCRIPT

BOARD MEETING (Part I)

June and her fiancé Michael is standing before the church Committee of four (Pastor James, Minister Lee, Senior Sister And Deacon Myers)

June and Michael remain animated, standing one or two feet Apart as the committee sort through some papers on the desk Before them.

Pastor James eventually stops looking at the notes and looks Up at the couple.

PASTOR JAMES: Do you know why you're here?

JUNE & MICHAEL: Yes, sir.

PASTOR JAMES: Now, Michael...you are my son...but you know that as Pastor of this church there are rules that even I have to adhere to.

MICHAEL: Yes sir....I know.

PASTOR JAMES: Good. I am somewhat...dismayed at the events that have led up to this moment...but I'm not here to pass any personal judgment on either you or....your fiancé, here...I love you both with the love of the Lord...However, in light of what is being said... I think it is necessary that we lay everything out on the table right now with all truth and integrity and then hopefully we can come to a conclusion that everyone will be satisfied with.

SENIOR SISTER: There is only one probable solution to this mess. *(gives June a stern look)* These two should not be wed.

MINISTER LEE: I agree...Hallelujah!

DEACON MYERS: None-the-less we should exercise some objectivity in this matter. These two are grown adults capable of making their own choice.

MINISTER LEE: They are still children....needful of advice and direction.

PASTOR JAMES: I am aware of the...tension... that exist regarding this matter...but is there really any viable reason why these two should not be married?

SENIOR SISTER: Oh...you don't want to get me started on that Pastor.

PASTOR JAMES: Oh...I think I do.

Pause.

SENIOR SISTER: First and foremost...I think it best we hear from our witnesses.

PASTOR JAMES: So we have witnesses also...Interesting. I was not aware that my son was on trial.

DEACON MYERS: I think it is necessary at this point....

SENIOR SISTER: Amen. First level-headed thing you said all day.

Deacon Myers ignore Senior Sister's comment.

MINISTER LEE (*calling offstage*): Send in the first witness.

*Pastor James motions for June and Michael to have a seat SL.
They do.*

ENTER Well-Dressed Brother KURT.

KURT: Howdy Pastor, Ministers, Deacons, Congregation and Friends.

Kurt looks in the direction of June and Michael.

PASTOR JAMES: Do you know these two?

KURT: I know June. All I know about Michael is that he's your son, sir.

PASTOR JAMES: What do you know about this young lady?

KURT: I know where she has been.

PASTOR JAMES: Her past?

KURT: Well, I guess that all depends on where she is now.

PASTOR JAMES: Let me help you with that. *(pause...reads from a sheet of paper)* Sis. June has been saved now for over four years. Presently she is the Worship and Praise coordinator....assistant Youth Director and an Evangelist.

KURT: Wow. She's all that.

PASTOR JAMES: I thought you said you knew her.

KURT: Well to be honest with you, sir...I'm only a visitor to your church. When I visited last Sunday and saw her seated on the platform I was a bit shocked...if you know what I'm saying.

PASTOR JAMES: Why were you shocked?

KURT: Hey...I'm really trying to avoid having to say it here, you know, in front of all these church folks.

PASTOR JAMES: You're trying to avoid saying what?

Pause.

SENIOR SISTER: Speak your mind, boy.

KURT: Well...(ahem)...I've had her in the past, know what I mean...I've bought her...merchandise.

June is in tears. Michael puts his arm around her.

PASTOR JAMES: Her merchandise???

KURT: She sold her body for money...you'll know that right?

Senior Sister and Minister Lees expression changes to pure Rage.

Senior Sister jumps to her feet and points at June as she Speaks.

SENIOR SISTER: I told you all...I told you all....this girl is nothing but societies rejected trash...oh glory.

PASTOR JAMES: Get a hold of your self, Sister. You will not be judge or jury in my church.

MINISTER LEE: Our church suffers because of people like (*gestures in June's direction*)... this...we keep giving them offices in the church and they do nothing but pass on their evil spirits to the congregation.

PASTOR JAMES: Where are you to fill these offices when they are available?

MINISTER LEE: ah...I can't do everything.

PASTOR JAMES: The only thing you do is sit on this committee playing judge, jury and prosecutor.

MINISTER LEE: I knew it...I knew it...you're taking your son's side. You want him to marry....that...that....it's people like that...

PASTOR JAMES: It's people like that why we even have a church. You were a sinner once remember?

DEACON MYERS: We all were.

MINISTER LEE: But I'm not the one on Trial here, remember. Do you really want someone like her as a Daughter in Law? Oh, imagine the shame...the disgrace....

PASTOR JAMES: I'm warning you both. If you don't contain yourselves I will be forced to dismiss you from this meeting.

MINISTER LEE (*breathes hard to calm herself*): I'm contained...I'm cool....

PASTOR JAMES: Good...

Pause...everyone catches their breathe and calm down.

KURT: Man...I didn't know you people had arguments.

PASTOR JAMES: Becoming a Christian don't make us super-human, son.

KURT: Whatever you say, man..sir. Anyway, I agree with the ladies, man...someone with June's background should never be allowed on the platform or (*whispers*) to marry the son of a Pastor.

DEACON MYERS: I know Pastors who have had worst backgrounds than my sister June here.

KURT: Yeah, well...people who know where they are coming from will never allow themselves to be blessed by them, you know what I'm saying.

PASTOR JAMES: You may go, son.

KURT: Cool...I hope I helped.

Kurt glances at June before exiting.

PASTOR JAMES: Michael...

MICHAEL: Yes sir.

PASTOR JAMES: You knew this before?

MICHAEL: Yes sir.

Pastor James is impressed.

PASTOR JAMES: Before we proceed to the next 'witness' I would like to hear from June.

DEACON MYERS: So would I.

Senior Sister and Minister Lee would oppose, but Pastors Stern finger forces them to decide against it.

*June stands...she wipes her tears. Michael holds her hand
While he remains seated.*

SENIOR SISTER: Does she have to hold his hand?

MINISTER LEE: My sentiments exactly.

PASTOR JAMES: Quiet!

*June remains for a beat before speaking. She wipes another
Tear.*

JUNE: I have had a rough past. It involved alcohol, drugs and as you have already heard prostitution...and there is more that has gone and will go unsaid...

MINISTER LEE: More...

SENIOR SISTER: It's worst than I thought.

JUNE (*ignoring them... continues*): ...But it was never my intention to live my life like that. I guess I believed that I was victim to society's influence...so to speak...but Jesus taught me that there can be no good reason to live against Him. (*pause*) The very first time I set foot in this church God pulled on my heart and I responded and I have

been living for Him ever since. Michael has been a tower of strength and God's gift to this unworthy soul and I will not let him go because some people cannot see beyond my past to accept me as God's child.

Deacon Myers applauds cheerfully.

SENIOR SISTER: Is she talking about us?

MINISTER LEE: The nerve.

PASTOR JAMES: Well said, my child. In time you will learn, as I have, to ignore those kinds of people.

June takes her seat. She exchanges a smile with Michael.

SENIOR SISTER: You're not letting her get away with that.

MINISTER LEE: Oh, you better do something...Pastor....I can't contain myself...I just can't.....

PASTOR JAMES: You two keep insisting that we go through with this meeting...so let's continue, shall we.

Senior Sister and Minister Lee is practically foaming at the Mouth.

ENTER Mild Meika. She stands before the committee and Just glances over at June and Michael.

PASTOR JAMES: Do you know these two?

MILD MEIKA: Yes, sir..I do.

PASTOR JAMES: Do you think they deserve to be married?

MILD MEIKA: I don't know about that sir. I can speak only of their characters...not their relationship.

PASTOR JAMES: Well, seeing that all fingers are pointed at June...what can you tell us about her?

MILD MEIKA: We used to be friends...early on when she just got saved...but our relationship was ripped apart due to our lack of common interest.

Silence.

PASTOR JAMES: Would you care to elaborate?

MILD MEIKA: I don't know what that word means, sir.

DEACON MYERS: It means to go into details.

MILD MEIKA: Oh, okay...well...I'm not so sure I want to do that here, sir...with all these other church folks around.

PASTOR JAMES: Why not?

MILD MEIKA: There are things about me... it would just be better for everyone not to know.

PASTOR JAMES: Okay...I see. Things relating to your past.

MILD MEIKA: In some ways yes. I used to think that you can never really get past your past...that it follows you wherever you go. But that was before I met June.

DEACON MYERS: Are you saying that your association with this girl has done you good?

MILD MEIKA: It would...if I allowed it...if I choose it. But I'm too stubborn to follow June's example...but there are many like myself who wish we could be as strong a Christian as she is.

SENIOR SISTER: Lies....all lies.

MINISTER LEE: Who is responsible for bringing this false witness into this meeting? (*waits for a response*) Who is responsible?

Deacon Myers stands.

DEACON MYERS: I am.

SENIOR SISTER: What?

PASTOR JAMES (*sighs*): Here we go again!

DEACON MYERS: If we allowed this session to run by your rules alone...we would destroy a very good thing. Not just the future of this couple, but their very self worth.

MINISTER LEE: What do you know about self worth?

DEACON MYERS: Are you asking me that question....or yourself?

MINISTER LEE: Ah...the nerve!!!

PASTOR JAMES: I'm getting weary of this.

SENIOR SISTER: Good. Maybe you should step down and let a real man pastor this church.

Pastor James stands.

PASTOR JAMES: Excuse me.

SENIOR SISTER: You heard what I said.

Michael jumps to his feet.

MICHAEL: How dare you speak to God's servant like that!!!

SENIOR SISTER: Quiet, boy.

MINISTER LEE: Admit it, Pastor. You know you're not man enough to run a church. You're weak...feeble....

SENIOR SISTER: A real pastor would never allow an alcoholic and a prostitute to come up in here leading our worship services...

MINISTER LEE: Or evangelising...

PASTOR JAMES: So I'm the one on Trial here now...huh?

SENIOR SISTER: You have been on Trial since the day you set foot in this church.

They continue arguing....June starts crying again....

LIGHTS FADE.

SCENE 2

June and Michael are alone on stage. For a while, they say Nothing to each other... until June breaks the Ice.

JUNE: Maybe we should call the whole thing off.

MICHAEL: What? Why?

JUNE: Look at all the trouble it's caused. *(pause)* Maybe I should find another church.

MICHAEL: Sounds like something a demon would whisper in your ears.

JUNE: Don't try to switch the focus here, Michael. We have to look at this realistically...the church now knows who I was...they will never look beyond that.

MICHAEL: Is this really about the church?

JUNE: Don't mis-interpret me. I do love you...but love is not always enough.

MICHAEL: I don't care who you were...its who you are that interest me...that's who I fell in love with.

JUNE: You pretend as if my past don't pain your heart sometimes.

MICHAEL: Not enough to stop me from loving you.

JUNE: Maybe not yet. Marriages change things.

MICHAEL: Do you think I expect our marriage to be a bed of roses? Because I don't....That would be fairy tale thinking.

JUNE: I don't want to hurt you anymore.

MICHAEL: Don't make any decisions for me June...don't even try it.

JUNE: What do you want from me?

MICHAEL: I am here, aren't I....standing right next to you...taking some of the fiery darts they are throwing at you. Is that for nothing?

JUNE: Do you want to be here?

MICHAEL: What kind of a question is that?

JUNE: It's just a question.

MICHAEL: I can't believe we're having this argument.

JUNE: I'm NOT ARGUING.

Pause.

MICHAEL: You know...that's the one thing about you I would change. Your ability to do something and say you're not doing it.

JUNE: I'm not arguing.

MICHAEL: Okay...fine...you're not arguing...but listen to me. You can't allow 'them' to force you to give up.

JUNE: I'm not giving up.

MICHAEL: See...there you go again.

JUNE: I'm not giving up.

MICHAEL: Then what are you doing.

JUNE: I'm...I'm...I don't know. You're confusing me.

MICHAEL: I'm confusing you.

JUNE: Will you just leave me alone...please.

*This statement silences Michael...He retreats within himself
Wounded by her words.*

He walks away from her to the far SR.

JUNE: Mich...

MICHAEL: Don't!

He remains there with his back turned to her.

She looks away...

LIGHTS FADE.

BOARD MEETING (Part II)

Everyone is present except Pastor James. The tension in the room is high....uncomfortable...everyone's back is turned to Someone else....no one says a word....expression are cold And lifeless...angry and condescending...

Pastor James enters...but I'm sure he would rather be somewhere else.

He takes his place....takes a bible from his briefcase...lays It on the table next to him.

PASTOR JAMES: Before we begin...can someone please say a word of prayer for the rest of this evenings proceedings.

Pastor bows his head and waits...everyone else remains In-animated....

Pastor waits a few more minutes.....nothing....he decides to Volunteer himself.

PASTOR JAMES: Lord, help us to conclude this matter in a way that will be satisfying to everyone involved. I know you're not pleased with us so far, but may you help us to put our own selfish thoughts and ambitions aside that your will may break through all this filth and smog that Your Son may receive the glory in Jesus name.

SENIOR SISTER: Filth..?

MINISTER LEE: Smog..?

PASTOR JAMES: Well, if you could have prayed a better prayer...maybe you should have.

SENIOR SISTER: Oh...don't get me started.

PASTOR JAMES: Oh...I'm trying not to.

DEACON MYERS: This meeting has been drawn out long enough...we need to reach a conclusion so we can all go home.

PASTOR JAMES: Yes...well...I spent the last fifteen minutes in prayer and the Lord has led me to various scriptures that I think are more than appropriate for this 'special case.'

Pastor James reaches for his bible and opens it.

PASTOR JAMES: We all agree that the word of God carries the highest authority, yes.

Pastor waits for an answer.

PASTOR JAMES: That was not a rhetorical question.

MICHAEL, JUNE & DEACON MYERS: Yes sir/ It does/ Aye.

Pastor waits to hear from Senior Sister and Minister Lee, who Both still carry an angry and uncomfortable expression.

SENIOR SISTER: We're listening.

MINISTER LEE: Speak your mind, then we can speak ours.

PASTOR JAMES: We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23.

DEACON MYERS: Oh...I feel a sermon coming on.

PASTOR JAMES: Stay cool my brother...I aint preaching...(pause)...yet.

DEACON MYERS: Hallelujah.

PASTOR JAMES: We know that the wages of sin is death...Romans 6:23...but the gift of God is eternal life...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Now from how I see it, and many of you may disagree, my daughter here has crossed over from death to life.

DEACON MYERS: Oh...glorreeee.

PASTOR JAMES: And it don't matter what others think or say....nothing can change the fact that Jesus has changed this young lady into something beautiful.

MICHAEL: Amen.

PASTOR JAMES: John 8:32, For Ye shall know the truth...and the truth shall set you free.

Deacon Myers can no longer contain himself...he jumps to His feet.

DEACON MYERS: If the Son therefore shall make you free...You shall be free indeed.

PASTOR JAMES: John 8:36. (pause) Stand up my daughter.

June stands.

PASTOR JAMES: The Lord has already judged you and have found you worthy of my Son. You have my blessing.

June runs over and embraces him.

SENIOR SISTER: I can't believe he just said that.

MINISTER LEE: Oh, you won't be pastoring this church for much longer.

Everyone is now on his or her feet.

MICHAEL: God is the only one who decides who stays and who goes.

SENIOR SISTER: And I have the spirit of discernment...and I see a new pastor coming on here.

MINISTER LEE: Oh Glory.

MICHAEL: You have no idea what God is doing in His church.

SENIOR SISTER: Have respect for your elders boy.

MICHAEL: I have something to say...and you're going to listen.

MINISTER LEE: The nerve...

MICHAEL: You have brought my fiancée before the entire church to humiliate my family. That has been your motive all along. You don't care about me or my father or my wife to be. All you have ever wanted to do was please yourself. But...you have succeeded only in putting the Blood of Jesus on Trial here today.

MINISTER LEE: You're talking foolishly, boy. We're only looking out for your best interest. That's why we're here.

MICHAEL: You know that's not true. In any case you two have stood here and posed a very serious question without even realizing it.

MINISTER LEE (*turns to Senior Sister*): What is he talking about?

SENIOR SISTER: How should I know!

MICHAEL: You have asked the question, can Jesus' blood truly cleanse a sinner like myself...like June. My question to you is can Jesus' blood truly cleanse any man from sin?

Silence.

Pastor James, June, Deacon Myers and Michael's eyes are On Minister Lee and Senior Sister waiting for an answer.

PASTOR JAMES: Well, can Jesus' blood truly wash a sinner clean? It's a simple yes or no question.

Long Pause.

Longer Pause.

MINISTER LEE: Well...yes I suppose so.

SENIOR SISTER: Yes...but that is besides the point.

MICHAEL: It is exactly the point. God has used your foolish and ignorant thinking to teach us all a lesson.

PASTOR JAMES (*smiling*): He does that sometimes.

MICHAEL: Too often we bring up the past and use it as a weapon against our brothers and sisters. Forgiveness is and always have been the foundational part of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PASTOR JAMES: If the blood of Jesus cannot cleanse June completely....then it cannot cleanse us completely. It's as simple as that.

Deacon Myers Starts to sing:

DEACON MYERS: "What can wash away my sins?"

EVERYONE: “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.”

PASTOR JAMES: “What can make me whole again?”

EVERYONE: “Nothing but the blood of Jesus...Oh Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow...no other fount I know...Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”

JUNE: “For my pardon this I see.”

EVERYONE: “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”

JUNE: “For my cleansing this my plea.”

EVERYONE: “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus... Oh Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow...no other fount I know...Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”

MICHAEL: “Nothing can for sin atone.”

EVERYONE: “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”

DEACON MYERS: “Naught of good that I have done”

EVERYONE: “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”

SENIOR SISTER: “This is all my hope and peace”

EVERYONE: “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”

MINISTER LEE: “This is all my righteousness”

EVERYONE: “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus... Oh Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow...no other fount I know...Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”

They all share hugs and laughter....

BLACK OUT!!!!