

IS NOT A VIBES THING

Original Stage play

By

Cleveland O. McLeish

THE SCRIPT

LIGHTS UP.

*There's a man lying on stage. As he begins to stir and rise, we recognized
That he's dressed in Biblical Attire.*

His name....is Elisha.

*He looks around. His expression suggests that he's not very familiar with this
Specific surrounding. He stands up and fixes his mantle.*

*Elisha starts to walk around looking at and touching everything. He goes to the
The television set and looks at it closely....he touches the screen.....he sees the
Remote sitting on top of the television. He takes it and looks at it....he presses
The big red button and the television come onpictures and sound.... Almost
Scaring him out of his clothes. He falls over on a couch behind him and he's
Thrown back.*

*He slowly recovers and peek over the top of the coach at the pictures on the
Screen. He suddenly remembers something and lifts the remote and presses
The big red button again and the television goes dead.*

*Impressed he gets up from around the coach and turns the television on and off
About a hundred times.....*

A Teenage boy...Jeremy and his sister Felicia, Early twenties ENTERS.

*Jeremy has a big knife in his hand and Felicia carries a broom and a broken
Bottle.*

FELICIA: What are you doing in our house?

Elisha turns to see them...he greets them with a smile.

ELISHA: Greetings my brother and sister in the LORD.

FELICIA: I know we ain't related to you. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

Elisha is not sure how to respond.

Jeremy checks the door to see if it's locked.

JEREMY: How did you get in here? The door is locked.

ELISHA: I'm not sure how I got in.

FELICIA: Are you one of those lunatics who escaped the asylum yesterday.

ELISHA: What's an Asylum? What's a lunatic?

FELICIA: I'm gonna count to three and you better be out that door.

JEREMY: Yeah...or we may cut you (*swings his knife*)

ELISHA: I can't leave...at least not yet.

FELICIA: What..? Why not?

ELISHA: I was sent here to help you....to help your mother.

Pause.

FELICIA: Who are you?

ELISHA: My name is Elisha.

FELICIA: Elisha! I know that name.

ELISHA: You've read about me I see.

FELICIA: I have read about an Elisha that lived thousands of years ago.

ELISHA: Well then....now you get to meet him in person.

JEREMY: What is he saying sis?

FELICIA: I think he's saying that he's the Elisha of the bible.

JEREMY: Okay....uhmmm....well he does dress like those people used to.

FELICIA: True, true. So what do you think?

JEREMY: He's mad. Totally whacko.

FELICIA: Should we attack him then.

JEREMY: We really shouldn't get any blood over mom's carpet...but yeah, I think we should.

They chase Elisha around the room with weapons raised.

ELISHA: Wait....wait.....please wait.

*They go round and round a bit until everyone's tired. They stop trying to catch
Their breathe.*

ELISHA (*between gasp*): Why don't you believe me? You're supposed to be believers.

FELICIA: What are you asking us to believe, huh? That a three thousand year old man is standing in our living room?

ELISHA: Well....yes, I guess.

FELICIA: Mister....you need to get out of our house before our mother gets here. She won't be as merciful as we are.

ELISHA: That's the thing with you people. You pray to God and ask Him for help...but when the help comes you chase it away.

Pause.

FELICIA: How is it that you know so much about us?

ELISHA: I wouldn't know if I wasn't who I said I was.

FELICIA: God sent you....here....now to help us?

ELISHA: Is that so hard to believe?

Jeremy and Felicia look at each other, then at Elisha.

JEREMY AND FELICIA: Yeah.

ELISHA: Why?

JEREMY: God don't work like that no more.

ELISHA: It's not up to you to decide how God conducts His business.

FELICIA: How can we be sure that God sent you?

ELISHA: Well, God's word tells us to try the spirit...to see if it's from God.

JEREMY: How do we do that?

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ELISHA: Any spirit that denies that Jesus came in the flesh, lived here on earth as man, was crucified, rose again on the third day and now sits at the right hand of God waiting....to come back for his bride.....is not of God.

FELICIA: And you believe this.

ELISHA: Of course.

FELICIA: You will still have to do better than that.

Elisha sighs.

*He takes off his mantle (*definition: a coat that is worn over other garments*) and Holds it out to them.*

ELISHA: This is the mantle that was passed down to me from Elijah....after he was taken away by the chariot of fire.

Felicia just stares at him not knowing what else to say, not that the words would Have actually come.

She faints.

JEREMY: Sis.

Jeremy kneels by his sister. He shakes her and fans her until she comes to.

JEREMY: Sis...what's the matter? Why did you faint?

FELICIA: Because I think, maybe, he's the one.

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP.

Felicia sits in the coach waiting.

Jeremy walks out.

Felicia sees him. He shrugs.

FELICIA: Well....

JEREMY: I don't know...

Jeremy looks offstage and waits.

Elisha walks out wearing Jeremy's pants and shirt...they fit a bit too closely and its obvious Elisha is just not used to this kind of dress-code.

JEREMY: I think it fits too tightly.

FELICIA (*chuckles*): Well...it will just have to do until we can find something else.

ELISHA: What's wrong with my clothes?

FELICIA: We have been through this before....Keep in mind that if you wish to stay here...you may need to tone down your honesty a bit when mom gets here. She's very skeptical.

ELISHA: You want me to lie.

FELICIA: No....just don't speak the whole truth....at once.

ELISHA: Sometimes that is the same thing as lying.

FELICIA: I'm just trying to help. (*pause*) Do you need something to eat?

ELISHA: Sure.

FELICIA: (*to Jeremy*) Jere...can you get Mr. Elisha here something to eat please.

JEREMY: Sure, sis. (*Turns to Elisha*) What will you have sir.

ELISHA: Manna with roasted locusts, please.

JEREMY: WHAT? (*Their faces twist in disgust*) You eat grasshoppers?

ELISHA: Don't you?

FELICIA AND JEREMY: Nooooo!

JEREMY (*exiting*): That's just nasty.

Jeremy exits.

ELISHA: You know...lying is one of the seven things God hates the most...I think as His children we should have nothing to do with it as well.

FELICIA: Suit yourself...but I hope you can deal with the consequences.

ENTER Mommy Dor (affectedly called by her church family)

She puts her things down and stop when she sees Elisha standing there staring Back at her with a smile on this face.

ELISHA: Greetings.

DOR: And you are?

Felicia steps in.

FELICIA: He's uhm...

Elisha steps in.

ELISHA: I am Elisha (*extends his hand*)

DOR: (*looks at the hand, not sure she should shake it*) I know that name.

ELISHA: Most Christians do.

DOR: Where are you from Elisha?

ELISHA: I am the son of Shaphat...a resident of Abel-Meholah.

DOR (*fake smile*): Really.

ELISHA: Yes ma'am.

Dor takes Felicia aside.

DOR: Why is there a nutcase in my house? Has he come to be delivered from demons?

FELICIA: No mom...I think he's here to deliver us.

DOR: Excuse me.

FELICIA: I don't know what to think mom...but he wouldn't leave. He believes he's the Elisha of the Bible and that God has sent him to help us.

DOR: Really! Why didn't you call the police?

FELICIA: Because... (*Hangs her head*)...because I, kinda, believe him.

Jeremy comes out carrying a tray with peanut butter sandwiches and a glass of Juice.

JEREMY: Hi mom.

DOR: Hi Jere....

Dor watches as Jeremy hands Elisha the tray. Elisha digs in immediately.

DOR: Can you kids leave me alone with...uhm, Elisha... here....just for a few minutes?

JEREMY AND FELICIA: Sure mom.

They remain standing there staring at Elisha.

DOR: Like....right now.

FELICIA: Oh...right.

They exit.

Dor watches Elisha until he finishes eating.

ELISHA: I assume you're a few moments away from telling me to get out of your house.

DOR: You assume correctly.

ELISHA: Why is it so hard to believe that God can do anything?

DOR: I don't doubt that he can...but there are many lunatics in this world and I'm just not convince that you're not one of them.

ELISHA: There is little that I can do to prove myself, Pastor.....you're gonna have to choose whether to believe me or not.

DOR: I don't believe you...and how did you know I was a pastor?

ELISHA: You have wanted to be a pastor ever since you were nine. You had great respect for your father...he held your undivided attention every single night he stood at that street corner to proclaim God's word. He was your hero...You decided you would walk in his footsteps.

*Dor just stands there motionless....not understanding what she is hearing...she
Is even very, very close to tears as the memory of her father floods her thoughts.*

DOR: How did....?

ELISHA: You have always been a woman of faith, Pastor.....please, I humbly ask you to accept God's help. It hasn't come the way you had hoped....the way you had prayed....but you know God has His way of doing things.

Pause.

DOR: Where will you be staying?

ELISHA: Oh, I haven't thought about that.

DOR: Do you have any family...friends?

ELISHA: Not that I know of....but I'm a survivor. I can reside anywhere.

DOR: Well then...I think you'll be more than comfortable in the basement...there's a bed down there...but I must warn you...if I smell anything fishy, I'm calling the police.

ELISHA: Okay....deal....thank you for not throwing me out.

DOR: Yet...!

ELISHA: Right.

DOR (*calling offstage*): Fel....(*the kids dash out before Dor can complete the name...*)
Were you guys eavesdropping?

JEREMY AND FELICIA: No.

Felicia looks at Elisha who stares back...she remembers his words.

FELICIA: Yes, mom...we were.

DOR: (*impressed*) Wow...someone is developing a conscience now. (*pause*) Anyway, please show Elisha to the room in the basement. I have to prepare for church tonight.

JEREMY AND FELICIA: Yes mom.

DOR: You're welcome to join us Elisha...maybe even give us a word...if you are who you say you are.

ELISHA: It would be my pleasure.

DOR: Good. I'll see you tonight. And kids, see if you can find more appropriate clothing for our guest. Those clothes fit a little too tightly.

JEREMY (*chuckles*) Yes ma'am.

Felicia & Jeremy exit with Elisha behind them.

Dor exits to another room.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 3

LIGHTS UP

Jeremy and Felicia are already onstage dressed formally for church. There are some chairs lined out before a pulpit with a bible on it.

*Jeremy and Felicia are seated towards the back looking through a song book
As Mommy Dor enters and positions herself at the pulpit with her notebook
And song hymnal.*

She looks up and throws a smile at her children. They return the smile.

Elisha enters from the back.

He takes a seat nearby Felicia and bows his head to pray.

Jeremy and Felicia watch him until he is finished. He turns to them after looking around the room.

ELISHA: What time does church start?

JEREMY: Should have started half an hour ago.

ELISHA: Are people usually this late?

Jeremy shrugs.

FELICIA: Yeah, pretty much.

One and two people start to enter. They mostly just sit and sigh, the expression on their faces can be interpreted as people just going through the motion. They don't even bow their heads and pray as they sit...instead, they may just turn to each other and start talking.

ELISHA: This is truly heartbreaking.

FELICIA: What is?

A few cell phone starts to ring and the respective persons pull the phones from their pockets and bags and answer...pretty loudly too, one or two get up and go to a corner of the room.

ELISHA: Oh...my Lord. Deliver me.

Mommy Dor motions for Jeremy and Felicia to draw nearer...they go to the

Podium and takes the microphones.

They start to sing some worship choruses....(these can vary, but I would rather You choose these songs based on what is popular and well known at the time)

Elisha is totally heartbroken as only some of the little gathering partake in the Worship....others remain still just talking to one another....a few still had Their cell phones pressed to their ear...while others just sat with hands folded.

Elisha joins in the worship...but he seems a bit out of place among this Gathering as only he, mommy Dor and the worship leaders seem even Aware of the presence of the Lord.

The worship continues for a beat....then the microphone is handed back to Mommy Dor and Jeremy and Felicia re-join the congregation.

Mommy Dor opens the bible and reads...

DOR: Psalm 133 reads, ‘Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forevermore.’ *(Closes the bible)* Truly this is the day that the Lord has made....let us rejoice and be glad in it. Today we have a special guest among us that I will ask to bring us greetings. Brother Elisha....

Elisha, a bit reluctantly, walks to the pew and takes the microphone. He looks at It for a beat totally captivated by its ability to take a small voice and convert it Into a forceful sound coming from some nearby boxes that throw the sound Way beyond even the audience sitting before him.

ELISHA: Truly remarkable how technologically advanced this world has gotten. *(He looks at the audience, not sure how much they can handle)* Truly heart breaking how far from God we have wandered....our lives....being governed and dictated by temporary elements. So far I have seen people sit and stare at a video set for hours and spend only minutes reading God’s word....so far I have seen people with these little walkie talkie pressed to their ears for hours and yet, spend only minutes conversing with God the Father....so far I have seen Christians whose lives are govern by fear, doubt, mis-conceptions....

A member of the audience jumps up.

FRANKIE: Hey, I didn’t make the sacrifice to come here to be badgered.

AUDIENCE: Amen. Yeah. Indeed.

FRANKIE: Who gives you the authority to judge?

ELISHA: I have not passed any judgment on anyone. God alone judges...I am merely stating my observations.

FRANKIE: There are far too many churches around for me to sit and allow you to verbally abuse my integrity. I know my rights.

Frankie takes his bible...

FRANKIE: I thought this church was pass this...always running those guilt trips. You need to recognize that you're dealing with grown people here.

Frankie exits.

A few exit after him.

Dor sighs, bows and shakes her head.

Elisha is astonished at the decisions of these people....he can find no more Words to say.

Dor approaches him and takes the microphone.

Elisha goes back to his seat avoiding eye contact with anyone.

DOR: There are just a few things we need to discuss before we close. *(Pause)* You all know that the bible stresses how important it is for us to visit the sick and those in prison. Not doing this can result in us hearing 'Depart from me' at the end of the day and those three words I'm sure none of us want to hear. This is why I want to start a prison and hospital visiting ministry right here and right now. By the show of hands, is there anyone interested in working in this ministry?

Jeremy's hand is the first to go up....but then again; it is the only one to go up.

Elisha can hardly contain the tears that form in his eyes.

DOR: *(sadly)* Is there no one else who will answer to this call?

Dor waits...and waits...and waits....

Felicia keeps staring at the ground not looking up.

DOR: *(trying to be cheerful)* Well then....I guess that wraps it up for today. Shall we bow our heads.

*As Dor does the final prayer....everyone else sticks a finger in the air and leaves.
By the time she's finished praying, there is no one left but Elisha, Felicia and
Jeremy.*

DOR:Amen!

Dor opens her eyes to the empty seats before her...she sighs deeply.

Elisha quickly goes to Felicia.

ELISHA: Why didn't your hand go up?

Felicia shrugs.

FELICIA: I dunno....I just didn't feel the vibes I guess.

ELISHA: Vibes....is that what Christianity is to you people these days....a vibes.

FELICIA: It's the way things are, man. Get used to it.

It's obvious that Felicia is a little flustered. She exits.

Jeremy comes up beside Elisha.

JEREMY: Something is troubling her...but she won't talk about it.

Elisha doesn't respond.

JEREMY: It won't help if you play those guilt trips with her.

ELISHA: I'm not trying to make people feel guilty, Jeremy...I just want them to receive and accept the truth. *(Pause)* God's people perish for lack of knowledge.

JEREMY: Yeah, well...it's still a huge pill to swallow, sir.

Jeremy exits on that note.

DOR: I thought you were here to help.

Elisha turns to face Mommy Dor.

ELISHA: I am.

DOR: How, exactly? Help to destroy what is left of us. The first two sentences from your mouth cost us almost half the membership we have.

ELISHA: Is that what this is about. Quantity? How many members you have?

DOR: Without the numbers we wouldn't have a church.

ELISHA: It takes only one to chase a thousand....two will put ten thousand to flight.

DOR: Two people can't make a choir....or a band...or a church.

ELISHA: You're a coward, pastor....you compromise the truth of God's word to make people comfortable...so you can have the numbers. So you have the quantity, but lack the quality. If you're afraid to face the cold hard facts of the truth, how do you expect your congregation to?

DOR: Who are you to judge me? Who are you to call me a coward?

ELISHA: Then why are you having church at home instead of the huge tabernacle the Lord helped you to build three years ago.

Pause.

DOR: It's a bad neighborhood. People were afraid. Gun men lived there...they terrorized that community.

ELISHA: So you packed up and left....and yet, in that terrorized community you had more people coming out to church...and people had more respect for God.

DOR: What do you want from me?

ELISHA: It's not what I want, my child...it is what the Lord wants.

DOR: What does He want?

ELISHA: He wants you to remember.

DOR: Remember what?

ELISHA: That He has not given you a sprit of fear...but of power...of love and of a sound mind. He wants you to remember that alone...all by yourself...you are weak....but in Him, you are more than a conqueror. He wants you to remember the promise he made that He will never leave you nor forsake you. These are things you should never forget, my child.

Dor is now in tears. Elisha puts his arms around her and she falls into his Embrace as...

ELISHA: Let yourself go in His will.....there is much here for us to do.

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They remain like that as....

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 4

LIGHTS UP

Mommy Dor is at CS sorting through papers. There is a bible open nearby and Also Bible dictionaries and commentaries.

We watch as she looks through the notes, books and then scribble in her notepad.

The entrance door opens slightly...slowly...carefully....

Felicia sticks her head inside. She sees her mother sorting through her stuff...back turned. Felicia frowns. She steps in carefully and walks a few feet inside trying hard not to make a sound....She crosses all the way to the other door and exits.

Mommy Dor continues sorting through papers.

Felicia reappears.....but does not cross the stage to the previous exit this time... Instead, she motions with her fingers calling to someone offstage.

A young man enters about the same age as Felicia. Felicia now seems really nervous as he crosses to where Felicia is waiting for him...both eying Mommy Dor in case she senses something...and she does....Mommy Dor's head starts to turn.

The young man and Felicia fall flat to the ground as Mommy Dor flexes the Muscle in her neck. She resumes her work.

The young man crawls to Felicia and they both rise...The Young Man is smiling Enjoying every minute....They both exit as silently as they had entered just as Mommy Dor turns around to see if someone is standing behind her. Satisfied that she's alone.. Mommy Dor gets back to work.

Within Moments Elisha enters from the front entrance.

ELISHA: Can I talk to you a minute, Pastor?

DOR: I'm real busy right now Elisha.

ELISHA: You have been pretty busy the last two weeks...we haven't exchanged two words since our conversation at church. I thought I had gotten through to you.

DOR: You did.

Pause.

ELISHA: Then...

DOR: I really have a lot on my mind right now. Can we continue this conversation some other time?

ELISHA: Pastor...

DOR: Please...just leave me alone.

Elisha waits a bit...then exits.

Jeremy comes in...his expression reflects deep sadness.

JEREMY: Mom, can I talk to you?

DOR (*sighs angrily*): Can't you people see that I'm trying to get some work done here. Do I have to stamp a do not disturb sign in my forehead.

Tears form in Jeremy's eyes.

JEREMY: I'm sorry. (*turns to leave*)

DOR (*regrets talking to him so harshly*): Jeremy...(*he stops*)... whatever it is I'll deal with it later, okay.

JEREMY: Okay mom.

He exits.

Mommy Dor is totally exasperated. She removes her glasses and sighs heavily... Abandoning her work and falling away into the coach.

DOR: I can't do this anymore. (*pause*) I've lost the vibes to press on.

She looks up and for a moment considers praying....but the words don't come... The words may never come.....

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE 5

LIGHTS UP

Jeremy is at CS toying with a bottle of pills. His expression remains the Same.

ELISHA (*coming out of the background shadows*): It's funny.

JEREMY: What is?

ELISHA: How we sometimes think or allow ourselves to be convinced that death is some sort of solution to our problems.

JEREMY: It will make the pain go away.

ELISHA: No. A new, even more severe, pain will take its place.

JEREMY: How will I feel pain if I'm dead.

ELISHA: Death is not the end, my friend.

JEREMY: Please don't try to stop me. This is something that I have to do. You don't know what I'm going through.

ELISHA: Yes, but I would like to.

Elisha sits near to him.

ELISHA: If you can convince me that this is the best solution you can find...then I will not try to stop you. I'll even get you the water to take those pills.

Long Pause.

JEREMY: There's this girl at school. Her name was Tricia, I think. She's not really very pretty, but she's very smart. Top of her class....only, she has aids. She was born with it.

Jeremy waits to see if Elisha will respond...he says nothing.

JEREMY: I'm afraid of her. If she's walking on one side of the road I cross to the next...If she comes near me I move away....I despised her....scorned her...hated her for existing in the same environment as me. (*pause*) She had this to deal with not just from me, but from ninety percent of the school...she remained unfazed...still top of her class.

ELISHA: Sounds like she knows Jesus.

JEREMY: He may be the only friend she has. I mean, In her class, she sits alone. No one wants to go near her...she eats alone, goes home alone and even the teachers sometimes wear gloves to take anything from her.

ELISHA: These people were never taught how to operate around people with aids.

JEREMY: Yeah...lack of education is what the visiting psychologist would say.

ELISHA: My people perish for lack of knowledge.

JEREMY: Yeah.

Pause.

JEREMY: Well, about a year ago I met this girl. Real hot number you know, but I'm used to getting attention from girls like these...but this one was special. We got off to a really fast start...too fast, if you ask me. Sometimes my head would spin...but it was nice until one night we....sinned. (*pause*) It was the last time I saw her.

ELISHA: She left you...? Why?

JEREMY: I didn't know at the time. We were okay...we laughed we talked...we enjoyed each other's company...then she just left.

ELISHA: You're heart-broken.

JEREMY: I was...and I almost got over the whole thing until I did a medical, which is mandatory for my college application. The results came back...and.....(*sighs deeply...tears form in his eyes*)...and....

ELISHA: You're HIV positive?

JEREMY: No....worst...I have AIDS.

Long pause...tears flow freely from Jeremy's eyes...Elisha shares his tears.

JEREMY: I am not as strong as Tricia...I can't live like she did being cut off from society. I just can't.

ELISHA: (*puts his hand on Jeremy's shoulder*) I'm sorry Jeremy.

JEREMY (*flashes his hand away*): Don't do that!!! I don't need pity. That's exactly what I'm talking about. People either pity you or shun you and I can do without both.

ELISHA: Can you deny all that you are to follow Jesus? When you get to that place you will declare that though worms may eat this flesh, I will see God. All you need is determination and a will to survive.

JEREMY: It's not enough.

ELISHA: Jeremy, Jesus died for you while you were still a sinner. He loved you unconditionally in your worst state. If you don't believe that...then nothing I can say or do will stop you from taking your own life...but if you do believe in His love...allow him to use your very circumstances to save you....to save others.

Jeremy is in tears.

ELISHA: All things work together for good to them that love the Lord. If you believe that Jeremy (*extends his hand*) give me those pills.

Moments hesitation...more tears.....slowly, reluctantly Jeremy puts the bottle of Pills in Elisha's hand. Elisha pulls him into an embrace.

ELISHA: Now we only have a few more shaky bridges to cross and then the healing will begin.

JEREMY: I don't know if I'm up to it.

ELISHA: Don't worry...you won't be alone.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 6

LIGHTS UP

Mommy Dor is at the podium finishing up her message.

The congregation is a little less than before, but there is someone else sitting among the congregates. He is dressed in a black suit and wears sun glasses.

Elisha can't quite take his eyes off him, though he seems to be enjoying the Message.

DOR: ...God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. That offers so much comfort especially in these crucial times that we now live...but we can rest on God's promise that He would never leave us or forsake us...that He would be with us even to the ends of the earth....

Felicia and Jeremy goes to the podium and starts to sing 'There's Room At The Cross For You...'

Dor makes an appeal for anyone who needs special prayer....but no one answers The call.

Dor prays a final prayer and dismisses the service.

Everyone leaves except Elisha and the Man in Black.

Elisha approaches Mommy Dor.

ELISHA: Do you believe the message you just preached?

DOR: Does it matter?

ELISHA: Of course it does.

DOR: I don't feel obligated to answer your question at this time.

ELISHA: Then I know what your answer is.

Pause.

DOR: Elisha...

ELISHA: Pastor....wait....for some reason I sense that you're very angry. It's never wise to talk at the peak of your anger. We can finish this conversation some other time.

DOR: Fine.

Elisha goes over to where Jeremy and Felicia is standing while the Man in Black approaches Dor. He carries a briefcase.

He lays the briefcase down on a nearby table and retrieves some document as He walks right up to Mommy Dor.

Jeremy and Felicia watches him....Elisha follows their gaze.

ELISHA: Who is he?

JEREMY: Some agent.....I think he or the person he works for wants something from mom.

FELICIA: He keeps coming around having secret meetings with her...but she never tells us what's going on.

ELISHA: Then maybe we shouldn't be here.

They turn and leave.

DOR: Why do you keep coming here? I told you when necessary I will meet you in your office.

AGENT: I like coming to church, Pastor. I enjoyed your message very much.

DOR: I'll take that as a compliment.

AGENT: Hardly....I know you no longer believe in what you preach.

DOR: Are you judging me?

AGENT: It's not that hard to figure out, Pastor....you've closed the doors to your church to have service here...in your home. You can't possibly expect anyone to believe that you still trust in God's protection.

DOR: He also gave us wisdom.

AGENT: It is not wisdom why you're here, pastor...it's fear. Plain and simple.

DOR: Why don't you just state your business and go.

Agent hands Dor the papers.

AGENT: You already know why I'm here.

DOR (*opens the papers*): What's this?

AGENT: The contract.

DOR: I haven't decided yet.

AGENT: But you will.

DOR: I'm not sure my decision will go in your favour.

AGENT: Oh, I think it will.

DOR: I need some time to think this over.

AGENT: You have two days.

DOR: Two days!!

AGENT: Yes. (*pause*) We're already behind schedule pastor...we need to get this ball rolling.

DOR: What if I decide not to sell?

AGENT: You will.

DOR: But what if I don't.

AGENT: Then we'll take it from you by force. (*pause*) Go home and sleep on it.

Pause.

DOR: Why are you doing this?

AGENT: People don't need God these days, pastor...they just want to enjoy life. The value of pleasure far exceeds the value of salvation...we're just giving the people what they want.

DOR: People don't usually know what they want.

AGENT: We consider that an advantage.

DOR: You can't erase God from that community.

AGENT: We can try. (*smiles broadly*)

Mommy Dor is offended by his taunting.

She turns and exits.

AGENT: Who needs a sword when you have the power of words at the tip of your tongue.

Enter Elisha.

ELISHA: Who are you?

Agent smiles.

AGENT: I know you.

ELISHA: You don't belong here.

AGENT: I wouldn't be here if I wasn't invited.

ELISHA: From whom have you received such an invitation.

AGENT: You have seen the state of this church; Elisha...God has abandoned his people.

ELISHA: His word says He would never leave them...nor forsake them.

AGENT: Yes, but do they believe that.

ELISHA: They only need the faith of one.

AGENT: The shepherd has no faith...do you think there is one among the sheeps that do.

ELISHA: Yes, there is.

Pause.

AGENT: Look, Elisha...my boss is very rich. How much will it take for you to just walk away, huh, (*pulls out his checkbook*) how much do you want?

ELISHA: My Father is rich in houses and land...he holdeth the wealth of this world in his hand.

AGENT: Alright, no money. What do you want?

ELISHA: I want you to leave this family...this church.

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AGENT: I will leave when there is no longer a house for me to occupy.

*Agent turns and exits.....For the first time we see an expression of anger
On Elisha's face.*

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 7

LIGHTS UP

Mommy Dor and Felicia are all over the stage.

FELICIA: You can't control my life, mom. I am old enough to make my own mistakes and also to learn from them.

DOR: You have no idea what you're saying.

FELICIA: I'm not a child anymore mom.

DOR: You're still my responsibility. You can't just do as you like and expect me to sit back and say nothing.

FELICIA: I don't expect you to sit back and do nothing. But I don't expect you to be controlling either.

DOR: Felicia...I'm not just your mother. I am also your pastor and you have been sneaking around with a non-christian guy behind my back. Why did you have to let me hear about this from somebody else?

FELICIA: What would you have done or said if I told you about him?

DOR: I would have....discouraged it.

FELICIA: My point exactly.

DOR: It would have been for your own good.

Pause.

FELICIA: Jesus was a friend of sinners.

DOR: Are you saying that your reason for dating this guy is so you can minister to him that he will get saved?

FELICIA: That's one reason.

DOR: Have you slept with him?

FELICIA: Mooom!!!! That's personal.

Dor buries her face in her palms.

DOR: Oh no!

FELICIA: People make mistakes mom, you of all people know that.

DOR: I can't take anymore of this.

FELICIA: All you have ever cared about was your ministry. We have needs too.

DOR: Don't make excuses for your actions young lady. What is it with young people these days? You go and do something stupid and then all of a sudden it's everyone else's fault. Take responsibility for your actions.

Felicia feels the sting of her mother's words.

DOR: If you want to waste your life on a man who doesn't share your interest in God, go ahead. If you want people to drag this family's name through the gutter and my messages to fall on deaf ears....go ahead. But you will not live and do as you like under my roof so you either break up your fallow ground or move out.

Mommy Dor turns on her heels and exits.

Felicia folds her arms and look away.

FELICIA: Fine.

Elisha enters. He notices the frustrated expression on Felicia's face.

ELISHA: It's rather hot in here...isn't it?

Felicia is not in the mood for conversation. She turns and heads to the exit.

ELISHA: Let me help you Felicia...you don't have to face your troubles alone.

Felicia stops.

FELICIA: How can you help me? People went through different trials in your time...You didn't feel half the pressures we feel as a young person in those times.

ELISHA: Times change...people change...circumstances change...but God remains the same. The same God that saw me through my shallow valleys can see you through your deep abyss. The God you know on the mountain top is the same God in the valley.

FELICIA: To be honest with you Elisha...I'm not so sure I ever knew God.

ELISHA: My dear...that is what sin does. It separates us from him. You knew him...you were in the process of getting to know him...but you put something in the way.

FELICIA: I didn't want to...but....

ELISHA: Pressure. I know. He wants you to prove that you love him...but if you truly loved him you would have told him no. Love is not always yes. God teaches us that.

Felicia turns to face Elisha.

FELICIA: Your words are painful...but comforting.

ELISHA: You have to remember Felicia that if you can't be faithful to God...you can't be faithful to no one. A non-christian is not guided by the same morals and values that you are....their lives are based on vibes because they seek only pleasure. God takes that away and gives us something more valuable....

FELICIA: Faith...

ELISHA: Yes...without it, we cannot please Him and to please him we often have to displease men.

FELICIA: I guess you're saying that Mom is right.

ELISHA: In her own way she is. She needs you Felicia...now more than ever. Your brother needs you. Right now you're standing at a cross road Felicia where you can choose to continue down the self gratifying path or turn completely to God. It's our choice to make...It's your choice to make.

With this Elisha leaves her standing there to consider his words....

It is at this point that we realize Mommy Dor has been standing in the shadows All along. She walks out and goes to her daughter. They embrace as tears begin To flow.

Music rises in the background (Intro to Nicole Mullen's Song 'I Get on my Knees') – You can either play this song from the tape or have someone come Out and sing.

Jeremy comes out also in tears. He goes over to Dor and Felicia and they pull Him into the embrace.

Mommy Dor and Felicia falls to their knees in tears and prayer.....

LIGHTS FADE.

SCENE 8

LIGHTS UP

Mommy Dor is on her knees in prayer.

Elisha enters and sits and waits for her.

When she finishes praying, she looks at him briefly then look away.

DOR: I'm nervous.

ELISHA: So I see.

DOR: I know the scriptures, I know what God is saying to us, His people...and I'm still nervous.

ELISHA: It's quite normal to be.

DOR: My 'vibes' tell me to get up and run...and never stop running. To go away...far away where no one can find me. But...it's not a vibes thing, is it?

ELISHA: No, it's not.

DOR: Nothing in me....none of my emotions is pushing me forward. It's as if I'm paddling against the tide.

ELISHA: You're doing the right thing, Pastor.

DOR: I'm not questioning that anymore. But when I do this 'right thing' and something bad happens....who will be responsible?

ELISHA: You just need to trust God, Pastor. Cast all your cares and burdens on Him and just leave it. If you start thinking for Him...you'll make life real difficult for yourself.

DOR: I wish it was as easy as you saying it.

Jeremy enters with his sister not too far behind him. He sees his mother a little Way off and stops...he looks to Felicia for support. She comes to him and Squeezes his hand...then finds herself a seat and bows her head to pray.

Jeremy approaches Mommy Dor...Elisha sees him and smiles.

ELISHA: (to Dor) I think you'll do just fine. (pause) I think I'll go spend a few minutes in the prayer room.

DOR: Okay.

Elisha makes a few steps and stop just before Jeremy.

ELISHA: You want me to stay.

JEREMY: Yes I do. But I think this is something I'll have to do alone.

Elisha gives him a reassuring nod and exits.

JEREMY: Mom...can we talk.

DOR: Sure Jere...come sit beside me.

Jeremy goes to her and sits.

JEREMY: We haven't talked in a long, long time.

DOR: Yes, I know and I'm sorry.

JEREMY: It's okay. *(pause)* I thought I had life all figured out. It was bad enough that our real parents abandoned us as children...but every morning when I wake up and see you I'm almost thankful that they did.

Mommy Dor smiles....maybe blush a little.

JEREMY: Everything was falling into place nicely, mom...this summer I would be off to college to begin my first year of training and within a few years I would become one of the best Christian Lawyers this state *(country/ city)* ever had.

DOR: You have big dreams, my son. One of the things I love about you.

*This was supposed to be a compliment...but instead Jeremy looked even sadder
As he looks away.*

DOR: Something is wrong.

JEREMY: My dreams are now lying on the floor in pieces *(the tears come)*

DOR: What is it Jeremy?

JEREMY: Mom...please don't judge me badly when I tell you....it was only one mistake...one stupid mistake....*(more tears)*

DOR: Jeremy....what is it? Just tell me.

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JEREMY: Mom....*(long pause)*...I have AIDS.

DOR: Oh....my....god. No! *(grabs Jeremy by the Shoulders)* This is no time to be telling jokes, Jeremy.

Jeremy says no more...but his tears confirm his news and Mommy Dor knew He wasn't lying.

DOR: Oh God...! Oh God...! Oh God...!

Mommy Dor is finding it hard to breathe.

Felicia approaches and takes Jeremy's hand.

Dor looks up into her eyes and knew she knew.

DOR: You knew??

Felicia just nods.

DOR: Oh Gooooood...!

Mommy Dor is sweating profusely...gasping for air.

Felicia tries to hold her...to comfort her, but she is refusing her comfort.

Jeremy cannot bear her reaction anymore. He gets up...still in tears...and dashes For the door....Elisha is there waiting for him.

Elisha holds him....but Jeremy keeps forcing his way trying to get pass, but Elisha has no intention of letting go....

LIGHTS FADE.

SCENE 9

LIGHTS UP

Church is in session.

Mommy Dor addresses the small congregation before her. The Agent is also Present....Jeremy is also there, but he remains at the door away from everyone Else. His sister keeps motioning for him to come sit with her...but he keeps Declining her invitation....she eventually gets up and goes to stand by him.

DOR: I don't believe I am worthy to speak to you on behalf of God this morning...but I do believe there is someone here who is. He has spoken to you before and some of you left the church...but it is the prayer of my heart this morning that you will hear the words of God's messenger.....

Dor steps away from the podium and takes a seat.

Elisha enters and takes her place.

ELISHA: I once visited a man who was going through bouts of depression. I asked him a very stupid question...I asked 'How Are You?' His reply, 'Considering all, I think I'm doing well under the circumstances.' Instantly the Lord gave me a word for this man....'What are you doing under the circumstances, I put the circumstances under you.' (*slight pause*) It was never a part of God's plan for our lives to be governed by our circumstances. We tend to believe or act in a way that would suggest that God owes us big time....but He owes us nothing. He did not promise us freedom from poverty, sickness, pain, suffering, trials, tribulations or death in this life....but he did promise us glory if we endured these for His name sake. It's easy to praise God when everything is fine....but the true test comes when everything around us starts to shatter....can we still praise God then? (*turns to Mommy Dor*) Can you forgive those who hurt you terribly and Praise God in your pain? (*looks towards the door*) Can you praise God still when life pronounces a slow death sentence on you? (*pause*) This very church has been measured and weighed and have been found wanting...why? Because somehow...we have come to believe that it's about us....That's why we answer our phones during service...that's why we watch so much television and read so little of God's word...that's why we talk for hours with out friends and give God the last five minutes before we drift off to sleep at nights....but it is not about us. It has never been about us. If it was, then it would be okay for us to live according to our vibes...but this is not a vibes thing. This is a God thing and the only thing that has any true value is Jesus Christ. If it wasn't for him...then we, the human race, would live and die in vain. At the end of the day...God will not be asking you how you feel...He will ask you 'What have you done with my Son?' God has not called you and placed you under your circumstances...he placed the circumstances under you.

Elisha gestures for Jeremy to join him on the podium. At first Jeremy is reluctant

But his sister takes his hand and leads him.

ELISHA: Jeremy is sick. He has contracted the disease we know as AIDS.

Gasp from the audience.

*Jeremy has already been through the worst with having to tell his mother...
He's a little bit more sturdy now.*

ELISHA: Now, I would expect an ignorant set of people to cross to the other side when you see Jeremy coming down the road...but not God's people. We set the example of love...we set the example of acceptance. If we do as the world does then Christ would have died in vain.

Elisha shakes Jeremy's hand.

ELISHA: Here's one of the most important lessons you will learn in this life. You cannot contract this disease by shaking hands with someone who has it.

Elisha hugs Jeremy.

ELISHA: Neither can you catch it from hugging. *(turns back to congregation)* There's an entire community out there waiting to experience God's love. It has to begin with us.

Mommy Dor is the first to rise to her feet...she goes to Jeremy and throws her Arms around him. Others from the congregation starting miling about hugging Each other and praising the Lord.

Felicia takes the microphone and sings Donnie McClurkin's 'Stand' (or you Can just play the tape)

At the end of the singing/ Song....Everyone leaves except Mommy Dor and the Agent who is still seated in the congregation. Elisha is a little reluctant to leave.

ELISHA: Pastor...

DOR: I can take it from here, Elisha...Thanks.

Elisha nods and exits.

Dor just stands there looking at the Agent for a beat.

The Agent breaks the ice by offering her a clap...slowly, timely clap as if jeering Her.

AGENT: Great service, Pastor...real 'heart' stuff. Simply fabulous.

DOR: *(sarcastic)* I'm happy you approve.

AGENT: We still have this little business of an unsigned contract to discuss.

DOR: Contract...

Mommy Dor retrieves something from her briefcase.

DOR: You mean this contract.

Mommy Dor tears the contract into pieces and hands it to the Agent.

DOR: Signed and delivered.

Agent is breathing hard to contain his anger.

AGENT: You're going to regret this.

DOR: You fight your battles with politics and laws and contracts and empty promises...but we stand against you, not with guns or swords or worldly weapons...we stand against you in the name of the Lord. He decides if we should live or die...if we should fall or prosper...not you...and if His will is for us to live...nothing you do can ever change that. You want to know why? Because you are not in control.

AGENT: We'll see.

DOR: In the name of Jesus, get thee behind me Satan. *(Dor stomps her foot and turn her back on the agent)*

The Agent quickly gathers his things and exits as

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 10

LIGHTS UP

*Elisha is standing at CS dressed in the same biblical clothes he had on in
The initial stage of his arrival.*

Enter Mommy Dor....Felicia and Jeremy a little way behind her.

ELISHA: Well...

Dor throws her arms around him....Jeremy and Felicia also.

They remain in an embrace for a while...then pull away.

DOR: Many thanks to you....and glory to God the father for sending you at a time such
as this.

ELISHA: Amen. I presume it went well.

DOR: We marched to that old church and threw the doors open and begun to plea the
blood all over. Church begun with just us and a few other faithful who haven't given up
over the years, but by the time we said the benediction the congregation had grown to
over fifty or so.

FELICIA: Mostly just people who were passing by and saw the doors open.

JEREMY: Two people gave their hearts to Jesus.

ELISHA: Amen.

DOR: Not bad for a start.

FELICIA: I wish you were there.

ELISHA: Me too...but unfortunately...my time is up.

JEREMY: Can't you stay a little longer?

ELISHA: I don't think so Jere....

FELICIA: But we need you.

ELISHA: You have what you need...right there in your heart.

Pause.

DOR: We will miss you.

ELISHA: And I you.

They hug again....

ELISHA: This is not goodbye.....I hope to see you all again. In the better world.

A little tears...a little smile....

ELISHA: May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord cause his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and grant you peace.

There's a knock at the door. Everyone turns in the direction of the sound...when they look back...Elisha is gone (just have him walk away when they look away).

The knock sounds again.

Felicia walks over and opens the door....

Frankie walks in. He is in a horrible state as if he has not taken a bathe or eaten in days.

FRANKIE: Please don't turn me away. I need some help.

Mommy Dor is a little reluctant.....

Felicia and Jeremy wait to see what her response would be.

Eventually she takes his arm and leads him offstage.

FELICIA: The stone which the builder rejected has become the head corner stone.

JEREMY: That's scripture, right?

FELICIA: Yes little brother. Matthew 21 verse 42. Jesus was quoting from Psalms 118 verse 22.

They exit behind the others.

JEREMY: Cool.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK.