

DETOUR

Written by

Cleveland O. McLeish

Based on a Stageplay of the same name

42 Claremont Drive  
Old Harbour P. O.  
St. Catherine  
Jamaica West Indies  
Tele: 876-352-2650  
Email: [cleveland@christianplaywright.org](mailto:cleveland@christianplaywright.org)

1 FADE IN 1

2 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 2

Family dinner. PASTOR RUDOLPH JAMES, early 50's, sits at the head table. His wife, JANET JAMES, late 40's sits to his right; older son JOHN JAMES, 22, sits to his left and younger son CALEB JAMES, 20, sits at the opposite end of the table.

They move the plates around, helping themselves to individual portions of the prepared meal in silence. They are organized and discipline in their mannerisms and eat as we would expect an upper class family to eat...with knife and fork.

In a moment of frustration, Caleb puts down the knife and fork and begins eating with a spoon.

RUDOLPH

Caleb.

CALEB

Sir.

RUDOLPH

That's not how we do things here.

CALEB

Is there a book of rules somewhere I need to read?

RUDOLPH

You know the rules.

CALEB

I know your rules.

RUDOLPH

Which are applicable in my house.

Caleb continues to eat with the spoon. Janet puts a hand on his.

JANET

Please. For a peaceful life.

CALEB

Don't you ever get tired of doing the same thing, the same way, every single time?

JANET

This is not the time or place.

Caleb sees the concern in his mothers eyes. He looks at his father and reluctantly decides to comply.

3 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 3

Caleb sits in his bed and writes in his journal.

CALEB'S 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. (Ecclesiastes 8:14-15)

4 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 4

Back at the dinner table. The food is almost gone. The atmosphere is a bit tense. Janet looks around at the serene faces.

JANET

Today was lovely. I think the message was relevant.

CALEB

No it wasn't.

JANET

Caleb, please.

CALEB

Pops was preaching about guineps and tofu. Why do all his messages have to have some reference to food?

JOHN

I think it was a good message.

CALEB

You would think so you little zombie. Why not develop a mind of you own instead of sopping up what everybody else think?

JANET  
Caleb! You're out of line.

Caleb catches himself.

CALEB  
Apologies.

Uncomfortable pause.

RUDOLPH  
I preach so people can relate to  
what I'm saying.

5 INT. CHURCH - DAY - FLASHBACK

5

Rudolph is at the pulpit sweating. Members of the congregation are on their feet clapping, praising...some remain passive as Rudolph moves from one end of the stage to the next.

RUDOLPH  
...Tofu is tasteless ahah, but it  
can adapt. It absorbs whatever  
seasoning is used on it ahah.  
Likewise Christians should absorb  
difficult times ahah. Trials come  
to make us strong ahah. We are no  
longer tasteless, but we develop  
flavour ahah. But some of us are  
too much like guineps ahah. Some  
can be stripped easily from the  
seed while others take greater  
effort ahah....

6 EXT. SOMEWHERE BEHIND THE CHURCH - DAY

6

Caleb sits alone with his thoughts. SAMUEL, early 30's approaches.

SAMUEL  
Hey.

CALEB  
I'm not in the mood for another  
sermon.

SAMUEL  
Just checking to see if you're  
good.

CALEB

Yeah.

SAMUEL

You sure?

CALEB

I don't belong here.

SAMUEL

Wanna talk about it.

CALEB

How do you stay saved for so long?

Samuel sits beside Caleb.

SAMUEL

I have been to many places and done many things and have found the Christian life to be one of the best choices I made in my life. Nothing else compares to it.

CALEB

I was born in a Christian home. I have nothing to compare it to.

SAMUEL

You're searching for something Caleb. Whatever it is, if you find it to be better than this, you let me know okay.

7 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - PRESENT

7

Janet begins to clear the table. John helps her.

RUDOLPH

The message was good, but did it accomplish anything.

JANET

I'm sure it did honey. Many responded to the altar call.

RUDOLPH

Not my son.

CALEB

Why would I need to go to the altar today? I'm neither a guinep or tofu.

(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)

That altar call should have been done at the market. I don't see how it was relevant to me.

RUDOLPH

Your attitude for one.

CALEB

What's wrong with my attitude?

RUDOLPH

Its not Christ-like.

JANET

Are you two really gonna do this again?

RUDOLPH

Dinner was lovely honey.

JANET

Thank you...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.

CALEB

How so Pops?

RUDOLPH

I'm interested in Church and you are not.

CALEB

Do you have any idea what its like being a Pastors son...your son?

RUDOLPH

No. My father made coal and grew callaloo. He went to church twice. His wedding and his funeral.

CALEB

Well, then let me tell you. It feels like I'm in prison. No freedom. No space.

RUDOLPH

Where the presence of God is there is liberty.

CALEB

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

RUDOLPH

Freedom to do what?

CALEB

Whatever I want to do.

RUDOLPH

As long as you live under my roof, you will live by my rules.

CALEB

Maybe I should move out.

RUDOLPH

Maybe you should.

CALEB

Maybe I will.

JANET

Where would you go?

CALEB

Anywhere my feet take me.

RUDOLPH

You're nothing but an ungrateful sluggard.

Caleb slams his fist against the table.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)

Did you just slam your fist on my table.

JANET

Please stop.

RUDOLPH

This house is mine. All these furniture are mine. I am the one who took them out on hire purchase and I'm still paying for them. The only thing you own in this house, is your stinking attitude.

JANET

ENOUGH!!!

Pause.

Caleb leaves the table.

RUDOLPH

Why can't that boy be more like his brother?

JANET

Stop comparing him to John.

RUDOLPH

You saw what he did. Today he walked out of Church five minutes into the message. I think that says a lot about your son.

Pause.

JANET

I will go check on our son. Excuse me.

Janet leaves.

Rudolph looks at John, who is practically frozen in time, not sure if he should turn to the left or right. Rudolph pulls up a chair closer to him.

RUDOLPH

Come sit with your father son.

John sits on the chair.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)

You okay?

JOHN

Yes sir.

RUDOLPH

You should go feed the animals and get some rest. You have a big day tomorrow.

JOHN

Yes sir.

RUDOLPH

Make sure you don't give the goats what the pigs should get. You remember what happened the last time.

JOHN

Yes sir.

RUDOLPH

Don't worry. We'll hire someone to take care of the farm once you start college.

JOHN

Yes sir.

RUDOLPH

Go.

John gets up to leave.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)

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

John is unsure how to respond. He nods and leaves. Rudolph is lost in thought for a beat. He gets up and looks at the table.

8 INT. CALEBS BEDROOM - DAY

8

Janet hugs her son.

RUDOLPH'S VOICE

Honey...can you come finish cleaning up this table. Its a mess.

Janet rolls her eyes.

CALEB'S 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. (Lamentations 3:6-9)...I must break free.

9 INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

9

Pastor Rudolph sits in his recliner reading the Sunday Paper. Caleb comes in.

CALEB  
We need to talk Pops.

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

RUDOLPH  
Talk time is at five thirty.

CALEB  
Its five ten.

RUDOLPH  
You know how much I value my moment. This is my moment. You are interfering with it.

CALEB  
Your son wants to talk to you, but you are busy having a moment? A moment Pops. What do I do? Make an appointment?

RUDOLPH  
That's how it usually works. Now if you'll excuse me ---

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

RUDOLPH  
If I run this house on feelings, there would be no order.

CALEB  
Is there a book for that?

RUDOLPH  
Parenting for Dummies.

Caleb raises an eyebrow.

CALEB  
You're taking advice from a book called parenting for dummies?

RUDOLPH  
Yes.

CALEB  
Does that say something about you?

RUDOLPH  
Don't be fooled by the title. Its a  
good book. Besides, this is just  
the way I ---

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

RUDOLPH  
So see you at five thirty then.

Caleb doesn't reply...or move.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
Son, you're still within the sphere  
of my moment, which is highly  
distracting. Do you think maybe you  
could go get your own moment?

CALEB  
We need to talk.

Rudolph lays the paper down. He sighs out of frustration and  
removes his glasses.

RUDOLPH  
Talk about what?

CALEB  
In case you haven't noticed, I'm a  
little spontaneous. I can't live my  
life conforming to your routine.

RUDOLPH  
What routine?

CALEB  
Every Sunday morning its the same  
thing. You wake us up at exactly  
five thirty.

10 INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - MORNING

10

Rudolph slaps Caleb out of his sleep. Caleb looks at the  
clock: exactly 5:30AM. He pulls the sheet over his head.  
Rudolph pulls the sheet off him and rolls him off the bed. He  
hits the ground with a thud.

Rudolph moves to a second bed and slaps John out of his  
sleep.

## CALEB'S VOICE

You do a number one at twenty five to six, brush your teeth at twenty three to six and do a number two at quarter to six.

11 INT. BATHROOM - MORNING 11

Rudolph sits on the toilet with a newspaper opened before him.

## CALEB'S VOICE

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 walk out and say...

12 INT. HALLWAYWAY - OUTSIDE BATHROOM - MORNING 12

The door opens and Rudolph steps out. His mouth moves in sync with Caleb's voice.

## CALEB'S VOICE

..."Thank God for soap."

Rudolph takes a deep breathe and strolls towards the living room.

## CALEB'S VOICE (CONT'D)

You will take a deep breathe and disappear in your room only to resurface at seven thirty ready to leave for Church.

13 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING 13

Rudolph, now ready for Church, is arguing with Janet, who is still in her night gown.

## CALEB'S VOICE

Of course 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.

14 INT. LIVING ROOM - PRESENT

14

Rudolph stares at Caleb as if waiting for him to make a point.

CALEB

This is where you respond Pops.

RUDOLPH

I will work on putting in an extra bathroom.

CALEB

That's it.

RUDOLPH

Okay, two extra bathrooms.

CALEB

What about the fact that me and my brother is still sharing the same bedroom?

RUDOLPH

It is a two bedroom house.

CALEB

I can't do this anymore.

RUDOLPH

Why do you have a problem with how I do things?

CALEB

In exactly three minutes you are going to look at your watch and say, "My God, look at the time." You will fold the 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

Don't you think you're overexaggerating a bit.?

CALEB

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

RUDOLPH

The Bible says in the book of Proverbs...

CALEB

Can we leave the Bible out of this conversation. I am sick and tired of hearing you quote scriptures that have absolutely no relevance to what we're talking about.

RUDOLPH

What!?

CALEB

I want out.

RUDOLPH

Out of what?

CALEB

I don't want to be a part of this family anymore.

RUDOLPH

How do you get out of a family? I know you can have a sex-change, but I don't think they can do a blood-change.

CALEB

I'm leaving Pops. For good.

RUDOLPH

Son, normally when children decide to run away from home, they don't usually inform their parents.

CALEB

I'm not running away. I'm moving out. I need to live my own life.

RUDOLPH

Well, I just foresee one small problem.

CALEB

Which is?

RUDOLPH

You're broke. You have no money. You don't even have a job.

CALEB  
What about my inheritance?

RUDOLPH  
You get that when I die.

CALEB  
Well, I can't wait until you're  
dead. I need mine now.

RUDOLPH  
Okay. Let me give it some  
thought....absolutely not.

CALEB  
You don't love me do you?

RUDOLPH  
Of course I do.

CALEB  
Say it.

RUDOLPH  
I just did.

CALEB  
Say the words.

Pause.

Rudolph tries, but it is too difficult to come out.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Don't hurt yourself Pops. Just give  
me my share of inheritance and I  
will leave.

RUDOLPH  
Why are you doing this son?

CALEB  
How can you call me son and you  
can't tell me you love me?

RUDOLPH  
So I should just write you a check  
and let you go wonder in the  
wilderness?

CALEB  
Yes.

RUDOLPH  
I don't think so.

CALEB  
I'm not a child anymore, okay. I  
can make my own decisions.

RUDOLPH  
Son---

CALEB  
Stop calling me son. My name is  
Caleb.

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

CALEB  
This conversation is over Pops. I  
expect you to grant me my wish so I  
can go.

RUDOLPH  
If you do go, promise me you will  
not forget where you're coming  
from.

CALEB  
I'm more concerned with where I'm  
going.

Caleb leaves. Rudolph sighs. He glimpse at his watch.

RUDOLPH  
My God, look at the time.

He folds the newspaper and tucks it under his arm as he gets  
out of the couch.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
Time to take a n---

Rudolph stops to consider, realizing his son is right. He  
sits back down in the couch.

Rudolph lies awake with hands folded behind his head. Janet  
watches him, also unable to sleep.

JANET  
What is it?

RUDOLPH  
Do you think my life is a routine?

Janet closes her eyes and pretends to be asleep. Rudolph opens one of her eyes.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
I know you're not sleeping. Is my life a routine?

JANET  
Yes.

RUDOLPH  
How bad is it?

JANET  
We can put a time to it.

RUDOLPH  
I can't be that exact.

Janet gets out of bed.

JANET  
I will go get that cup of coffee.

RUDOLPH  
How do you know I wanted coffee now?

JANET  
(points to the clock)  
Its ten thirty. You always ask for coffee at ten thirty, if you're not sleeping.

Rudolph sighs and climbs out of the bed.

RUDOLPH  
Get some sleep. I will help myself.

Rudolph leaves the room. Janet sighs and climbs back into the bed.

Rudolph sits before a cup of coffee that he will not drink tonight. He has a lot to think about.

17 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

17

John is reading his Bible. Toothbrush in his mouth, towel draped over his shoulders.

Janet enters in her bath-robe, toothbrush in hand and a large towel draped over her shoulders.

JANET  
What time is it?

John looks at his phone.

JOHN  
It's six thirty.

JANET  
Fifteen more minutes before ---

Rudolph appears coming from the bathroom. He cuts cross the living room and heads down the hall towards his bedroom.

Janet and John are in shock.

JANET (CONT'D)  
Something's wrong.

JOHN  
He's fifteen minutes too soon.

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

JOHN  
Is my brother really leaving?

Janet sees Caleb coming.

JANET  
You should go use the bathroom, John. You know your father will be out in twenty minutes wondering why we're not ready for Church.

JOHN  
Okay.

John gets up, sees his brother, nods to him and leaves.

JANET  
You okay?

CALEB  
Just sleepy.

JANET  
What is it between you and your  
father?

CALEB  
Ask him.

JANET  
I'm asking you. You have a  
responsibility as a son to honour  
your father.

CALEB  
You want to quote scriptures Mom.  
Here's one. Provoke not your  
children to wrath.

JANET  
Your father loves you.

CALEB  
If that were true, it would be easy  
for him to say it. He doesn't show  
it. He spends all his time doing  
two things...preaching and  
preparing for his message. That is  
what he loves. Not us.

JANET  
He provides for us. He is a good  
father and husband. We have never  
been in want of anything.

CALEB  
Listen to what you're saying Mom.  
We do everything according to the  
book. It's a tasteless way to live.

JANET  
Aren't you being a bit ungrateful?

CALEB  
All I want is for him to give me  
what I want so I can provide for  
myself. If I stay here another day,  
I'm going to lose my mind. I feel  
like a bird with wings who has  
never been given a chance to fly.

JANET  
Not every winged bird is supposed  
to fly.

CALEB  
Save your psychology for your  
clients. I know where I'm going.

JANET  
We should be getting ready for  
Church.

CALEB  
I'm not going.

JANET  
How do you plan on accomplishing  
that?

CALEB  
I'm not afraid of him Mom. I'm just  
sick and tired of trying to please  
him.

JANET  
What is wrong with your father  
trying to live according to the  
scriptures? Train up a child in the  
way he should go, and when he is  
old he will not depart from it.

CALEB  
He's over-righteous. Too much of  
one thing is never good.

JANET  
Can you really be over-righteous  
when the Bible says the righteous  
can barely make it?

CALEB  
Now you sound just like him.

JANET  
That's because he is right Caleb  
and you are wrong.

CALEB  
We never go anywhere but Church.  
Life is passing me by Mom. Life has  
passed you by. Look at you. When is  
the last time you guys went out on  
a date?

(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)

When is the last time you danced?  
You were a dancer once. I have seen  
the pictures.

18 INT. DANCE ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 18

Janet, in her younger days, practices a dance routine.

19 INT. LIVING ROOM - PRESENT 19

Janet pulls her thoughts back from the past.

JANET

I remember. But dancing also took  
me to a place I never want to  
return to.

20 INT. CLUB - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 20

Janet does some crazy dancing, holding a bottle of beer and  
randomly choosing men to push her body against. She also  
climbs up on stage and grabs a pole.

21 INT. LIVING ROOM - PRESENT 21

Caleb's face is twisted in disgust.

CALEB

You didn't need to tell me that.

JANET

Sometimes to move forward, you have  
to leave some things behind.

CALEB

You would say anything to keep me  
in this prison.

JANET

The road you are considering is a  
serious detour that will take you  
to a very unpleasant place.  
Somewhere I have been. Somewhere  
your father has been. I don't want  
you to go there.

Rudolph comes in all dressed for Church.

RUDOLPH

Okay, why aren't you guys ready for Church?

JANET

I'm almost ready honey.

Janet leaves quickly. Rudolph looks at Caleb who sits in the couch and crosses his legs.

RUDOLPH

I think we've had this conversation already Caleb. You can't wear pyjamas to Church.

CALEB

I'm not going to Church today Pops.

Rudolph tilts his head to the side and knocks on the other side of his head with his open hands.

RUDOLPH

Looks like I got some water in my ears. Let's try this again, you were about to get up out of that couch and go put on some Church clothes.

CALEB

I'm not going.

RUDOLPH

You have some life threatening sickness or disease?

CALEB

Not to my knowledge.

RUDOLPH

Okay, so let's try this again. Caleb, please go get ready for Church.

Caleb folds his arm in defiance.

Rudolph comes over and slaps him hard with the Bible. He tips over in the couch.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)

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

(MORE)

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
 (slaps Caleb with the  
 Bible again and waits)  
 Caleb you're free to go get ready  
 for Church.

CALEB  
 I'm not going to Church.

RUDOLPH  
 Oh, so you're stubborn demon huh.

Rudolph lays his Bible down and removes his jacket. He rolls  
 up his sleeves.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
 No demon will have authority in my  
 house. Hang in there Caleb, today  
 is your day to be free.

CALEB  
 I'm not demon possessed ---

Rudolph grabs Caleb's head with both hands.

RUDOLPH  
 Come out you defiant demon. In the  
 name of Jesus come out. Hang in  
 there Caleb, this could get a bit  
 rough.

Rudolph gets on top of Caleb and begin beating him violently  
 with the bible.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
 Come out....come out....come  
 out....in The Name of Jesus.

CALEB  
 Alright...alright...alright. I'm  
 going. I'm going.

Rudolph stops and eases his son out of the couch.

RUDOLPH  
 Have you claimed your deliverance  
 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 of  
Jesus.

Caleb leaves as Rudolph begins to straighten himself.

22

INT. CHURCH - DAY

22

Church is half full. A small choir is in their place on the podium along with Ministers & Deacons.

The choir does a rendition of "How Great is Our God" led by SIS. FLORENCE, mid 30's, long skirt, church hat, no jewelry.

The song ends. Choir sits.

Pastor Rudolph goes to the pulpit. SIS. FLORENCE, mid 30's, proceeds to stand by a smaller podium with an open Bible.

RUDOLPH  
God has brought us through another  
week - can somebody praise the Lord  
- But we are here - can somebody  
praise the Lord. Through the fire  
and through the flood - can  
somebody praise the Lord - God has  
seen us through. Amen. Anybody else  
in this house had a rough week -  
Praise the Lord. I was barking like  
a dog this week. Rough, rough.

Pastor Rudolph opens his Bible.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
Thank you Sister Florence for such  
a wonderful song. I appreciate your  
commitment to this Church. Saints,  
Sis. Florence is the epiphany of  
dedication and commitment. Always  
in her place. Always supportive.  
Show her some love.

A few people clap. Others turn their face away.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
(puts on his glasses)  
God has a word for us today from  
Psalm 1. I will asked Sister  
Florence to read.

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 the mockers.

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

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.  
Read on 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, ahah.

SIS. FLORENCE  
Which yields its fruit in season.

RUDOLPH  
Which yields its fruit in season,  
ahah.

SIS. FLORENCE  
And whose leaf does not wither.

RUDOLPH  
Thank you Sis. Florence.

Sister Florence takes her seat. She shakes a few times.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
David said thy word have I hid in  
my heart...that I will not sin  
against thee. When you put the word  
inside you, ahah, the Bible says  
out of you will flow rivers of  
living water. I feel like preaching  
today.

Sister Florence is given a glass of water. She takes it to  
him. He drinks some.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
I think I'm gonna need something  
stronger than water today. Can  
somebody bring me a red bull?

He gives the glass to Sister Florence who goes back to her  
seat.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
(preaches TD Jakes style)  
I am thinking about the ackee, ah.  
It grows on a ackee tree that is  
planted in the ground, ah. It bears  
in seasons, ah. It can be poisonous  
out of season, ah. Ackee is multi-  
dimensional, ah. It has three  
sides. Some have two seeds and  
others have three, ah. We are like  
the ackee. The bible says we will  
be like a tree planted by the  
rivers of water that brings forth  
fruit, ah. Water is a source of  
life and sustenance for the tree,  
ah. Without it, the tree would die  
and there would be no ackee.  
Without the word, your spirit will  
dry up and die, ah. A tree that  
bears no fruit will be cast into  
the fire.

A red bull is brought to him. He takes a moment to drink and then resumes preaching.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)

I did some research on the ackee tree and this is what I found, ahah. Ackee is a fruit that grows on the ackee tree, ahah. The ackee tree grows to about 30 feet high, and bears bright red fruit, ahah. The fruit ripens to reveal pods of yellow edible ackee, each with a black seed ahah. Ackee is usually prepared with saltfish and onions. Bacon or salt pork can be substituted for the salt fish ahah. The flavour and texture is somewhat like scrambled eggs. Ackee is also the main ingredient in Jamaica's national dish ahah. I knew I wouldn't get an amen right there. Ackee is a National dish. We don't know who we are in God, ahah. We think we're ordinary people, but I am here to tell somebody ahah that we ain't ordinary. The Bible says we are a peculiar people ahah, a holy nation ahah, a royal priesthood. God has called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light ahah. We have reason to rejoice today.

Pause to reflect. Removes his glasses. Closes the Bible.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)

We face many challenges from day to day and as I close I want us to reflect on what God has done for us. The Bible says, in the last days many will fall to seducing spirits. We may think that we have time to take a long journey of self discovery --- but there is no time.

Caleb gets up from the congregation and leaves. Rudolph sighs as he watches him leave.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)

As the world draws to a close let it be our prayer that God will help each of us find our way home --- before it is too late.

23 INT. CALEBS BEDROOM - NIGHT

23

Caleb sits by the side of his bed. John is fast asleep in the other bed.

CALEB

I will find my own way Pops. With or without your blessing.

Rudolph comes and sits beside him on the bed.

RUDOLPH

Where's all this coming from son?

CALEB

All my life I've been living your dream. You wanted me to do a Bachelors Degree in Theology, so I signed up. You wanted me to take up Minister's training and I did. I was the youngest one in the class. That's not me Pops.

RUDOLPH

I thought those were the things you wanted.

CALEB

I did it because its what you wanted me to do.

RUDOLPH

Why would you do it because you thought its what I wanted you to do.

CALEB

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

RUDOLPH

If I knew you didn't want to do it, I wouldn't have allowed you to do it.

CALEB

Anyway ---

RUDOLPH

What do you want?

CALEB

You know what I want.

RUDOLPH

I mean what are you searching for.

CALEB

I don't know. I just know I won't find it with the stigma and pressure attached to being a Pastor's son.

RUDOLPH

I know what is out there, Caleb. I can't willingly send you out there. As long as I'm alive, I have a responsibility to protect you.

CALEB

Then you will understand why I wish you were dead. It would make this much easier.

RUDOLPH

You don't mean that.

Caleb is done talking. He crawls under his comforter and turns his back to Rudolph.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)

Goodnight, son.

No response. Rudolph sighs and leaves.

24 INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

24

Janet prepares breakfast. Caleb comes in pulling along two hand luggage. Janet sees him. A tear escapes her eye. She hugs him.

Rudolph comes in with a checkbook in his hand. He opens it and signs a written check. He tears it out of the book and hands it to Caleb who takes it without making eye contact.

Rudolph leaves the kitchen.

25 EXT. JAMES RESIDENCE - MORNING

25

Janet watches as Caleb loads his luggage into a taxi. Caleb takes one last look at the house, and his mother. He boards the taxi --- never to return home.

26

INT. CLUB - NIGHT - ONE YEAR LATER

26

Semi-dark room - upbeat music plays in the background. Caleb, dressed like a thug - both ears now pierced, sits at a table with ONE GIRL on his left and ONE GIRL on his right. He drinks alcohol from a glass that is quickly refilled every time it gets empty.

ONE GIRL consistently whispers something in his ear. He reaches for his wallet and gives her some cash. The OTHER GIRL also whispers something in his ear. She gets some cash too. Both ladies excuse themselves. Caleb drinks some more.

BRYAN SINGER, 30's - sharp looking fellow enters the club with an escort CELESTE, mid 20's beautiful with deceptive eyes. Celeste sits beside Caleb and kisses him.

Bryan sits opposite them. He bumps Caleb's fist.

BRYAN

Having a good time?

CALEB

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

Bryan smiles and proceeds to begin rolling a spliff.

BRYAN

Welcome to my world.

CALEB

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

BRYAN

Uhm.

Bryan looks at Celeste and gestures for her to leave.

CELESTE

I just got here.

BRYAN

Go powder your nose. Bring us some drinks. Just need a minute with our boy.

CELESTE

Fine.

Celeste holds out her hand to Caleb. He gives her some cash. She leaves. Caleb watches her walk away.

CALEB  
This is the life.

BRYAN  
Remember when we met for the first time?

27 INT. STREETS - EVENING - FLASHBACK

27

Bryan sells drugs to a few youths. Pastor Rudolph walks up with Caleb in tow.

RUDOLPH  
Young man. What are you doing?

BRYAN  
Surviving.

RUDOLPH  
By selling drugs to kids.

BRYAN  
We don't bother you. Why you always bothering us. You sell your Jesus down by the Church, I sell my Jesus here on this corner.

RUDOLPH  
You're selling death.

BRYAN  
I don't force anybody to buy or use scare tactics to get what I want. People should always be free to choose their own way.  
(looks at Caleb)  
I bet if he had a choice, he would not be punking it with you on the Jesus trail.

28 INT. CLUB - PRESENT

28

Bryan hands Caleb the spliff and begin making another one. Caleb looks at the spliff, not sure he's ready. He puts it down and takes another drink.

BRYAN

Didn't think you would buy into my lifestyle walking around with that Jesus freak.

CALEB

Let's leave the past where it belongs.

BRYAN

I never told you this, but your father had me thinking. We had several conversations after that...even some normal ones. I started to feel like I wasn't free.

CALEB

This is true freedom. I wake up when I feel like, drink when I feel like and have sex whenever and whoever I feel like.

BRYAN

For a price.

CALEB

Money is the answer to all things.

BRYAN

The bible says that right?

CALEB

So.

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 never showed any interest.

BRYAN

Don't mean I don't think about it.

CALEB

Christianity is slavery. The Bible brainwashes you into an oppressive state.

(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)

I am liberating myself from bondage so if you wanna talk to me...talk to me about cars, money and girls. Nothing else matters to me right now.

BRYAN

Cool. I got my link to line up a new set of wheels for you.

CALEB

Now you're talking my language.

BRYAN

Its gonna cost you two mil.

CALEB

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

BRYAN

What's wrong with the apartment at Oaklands?

CALEB

I'm tired of it.

BRYAN

You have only been there a month.

CALEB

Too long. Its not satisfying anymore. I want the life Solomon had. Denying myself nothing my eyes desire. Refuse my heart no pleasure. I'm ready for the next level bro.

BRYAN

You sure bout that?

CALEB

Sure.

Bryan takes out a bag with some white substance.

CALEB (CONT'D)

What is that?

BRYAN

This will take you to the next level.

CALEB

I --- have never done drugs man.

BRYAN

You wanna ride in the fast lane,  
you gotta go with the flow. You  
gimme two grand and keep that bag.  
One sniff and you'll have your own  
throne in heaven.

Caleb takes up the bag.

CALEB

I don't know about this man.

BRYAN

Girls, fast cars and drugs. It's  
society's trinity man. Perfect  
combination.

Pause.

CALEB

Two grand?

BRYAN

Small price to pay to have picnics  
on clouds.

CALEB

Okay. Let's do this.

BRYAN

That's just for you man. I like to  
stay earth bound. That's why I  
stick to this little thing right  
here.

(puts the spliff in his  
mouth)

TWO POLICEMAN comes through the entrance.

POLICEMAN

Nobody move.

Caleb freezes holding the bag of white stuff in his hand.

29

INT. LIVING ROOM - JAMES RESIDENCE - DAY

29

Rudolph is in the couch reading the day's paper. His cell  
phone begins to vibrate. He looks at it and answers.

RUDOLPH  
 Pastor James here.  
 (sits up and listens)  
 What! You sure? Where?  
 (hangs up as he jumps from  
 the couch)  
 God give me strength!

30 INT. INTEROGATION ROOM - DAY

30

Caleb sits handcuffed to a chair. DETECTIVE RAIMER, mid 20's, looking much younger than his age comes in. He drops a file on the desk and sits (think Jethro Gibbs of NCIS).

He looks at Caleb, then proceeds to open the file. There is just one page inside the file.

RAIMER  
 As you can see, we don't have a lot  
 of information on you --- yet.

CALEB  
 And you are?

RAIMER  
 Detective Raimer.

CALEB  
 You're a Detective?

RAIMER  
 That's why I'm the one holding the  
 file and not in handcuffs.

CALEB  
 You look like you're still in  
 primary school.

Detective Raimer removes his shades to reveal even younger eyes.

RAIMER  
 Listen ...  
 (refers to the file)  
 Caleb James. We found you with four  
 pounds of coke. That's five to ten  
 years unless you start talking. Who  
 is your supplier?

CALEB  
 Click.

RAIMER  
(take notes)  
What is Click's real name?

CALEB  
Its not the name of a person. Its  
the sound of me hanging up the  
phone after you give me my phone  
call.

Pause. Raimer puts on his shades.

RAIMER  
We'll talk again soon. You got a  
visitor.

Raimer leaves the room. Rudolph comes in. He shakes his head  
as he sits in the available chair.

CALEB  
What do you want Pops?

RUDOLPH  
Its nice to see you too Caleb.

CALEB  
If you came here to throw a pity  
party or take me down guilt lane,  
you can just leave now.

RUDOLPH  
That's not why I'm here.

CALEB  
I still want you to leave.

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

CALEB  
Its better than living in the same  
house with you.

RUDOLPH  
Was it that bad?

CALEB

I think I just told you I would rather be in jail.

RUDOLPH

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

CALEB

At least they are my choices. Free 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. I hate your ways.

RUDOLPH

Why?

CALEB

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

Why are you here Pops?

RUDOLPH

I came to make your bail.

CALEB

Why?

Pause.

CALEB (CONT'D)

You still can't say it, can you? Three words and you can't say it.

RUDOLPH

Several times a day I look out my window to see if you're coming up the street. Isn't that enough?

CALEB

No.

RUDOLPH

I want you to come home.

CALEB

I don't think so.

RUDOLPH

You're just being plain stubborn Caleb. I'm taking you 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 us, its much more than just differences, but you were right about one thing. I lost interest in Church. This is the new me.

RUDOLPH

Can you see the difference between where you were and where you are now?

CALEB

Everyday.

RUDOLPH

And you still choose this?

CALEB

Everyday.

RUDOLPH

You spent the night in jail.

CALEB  
Just a small pit stop in the  
journey.

RUDOLPH  
Satan has pulled blinders over your  
eyes.

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

Detective Raimer comes in with Bryan and Celeste. Raimer  
removes the handcuffs from Caleb's hands and leaves.

BRYAN  
You good bro?

CALEB  
Never been better. Pops, meet my  
lover Celeste. This is my Pops.

Celeste gives him a half smile. Bryan ignores him.

CELESTE  
CJ talks about you all the time.

RUDOLPH  
Really.

CELESTE  
Naw.

CALEB  
Bryan you already know.

BRYAN  
We gotta go.

CALEB  
How? They caught me holding the  
bag.

BRYAN  
As you said, money answers all.

Detective Raimer sits around a table counting a wad of cash  
and laughing hysterically.

32 INT. INTEROGATION ROOM - DAY

32

Caleb gets up rubbing his fist. Rudolph pleads with him with his eyes.

CALEB

See Pops. I'm good. No need to stare out your window anymore. I got friends in high and low places. Sorry you wasted the trip.

RUDOLPH

My son, if you forget everything I have taught you, don't forget this one thing...! Everybody needs God.

BRYAN

Are we leaving or staying for Church?

Bryan leaves. Caleb follows holding hands with Celeste. They close the door behind them. Finally tears come to Rudolph eyes.

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.

33 INT. SPEEDING CAR - DAY

33

Bryan is speeding down the highway. Caleb and Celeste is in the back seat kissing.

34 EXT. FARM YARD - EVENING

34

John feeds some pigs. He leans against the pen absorbed in his own thoughts. Rudolph comes to him and rest a hand on his shoulders.

RUDOLPH

You okay.

JOHN

No.

RUDOLPH

Talk to me.

JOHN

Caleb is not your only Son Dad.

RUDOLPH

I know that.

JOHN

You don't act like it. You barely look at me anymore. You don't talk. Its as if I don't exist to you.

RUDOLPH

I have had to make some serious adjustments. I haven't been doing very well.

JOHN

Caleb choose to leave. I chose to stay. I have always been there for you and have been obedient and still he gets the better part of you, even in his absence.

RUDOLPH

I'm sorry.

JOHN

That's not enough, Dad.

RUDOLPH

It has to be. For now.

Rudolph walks away.

35 EXT. VERANDAH - MORNING 35

Rudolph sits passively on a patio couch staring blankly down the street. Janet watches him from the living room window.

36 INT. CLUB - NIGHT 36

Caleb is having a drinking contest with his friends. Some are already highly intoxicated amidst sporadic laughter, sniffing coke and chatter.

37 INT. POOL - NIGHT 37

Caleb is in the pool with TWO WOMEN. Celeste sits on a pool sofa watching him laugh and flirt. Bryan comes to sit beside here.

BRYAN

You should be in the water with him.

CELESTE

Let him have his fun. This won't  
last.

They watch him frolic in the pool. He waves at them and they  
wave back.

38 EXT. JAMES RESIDENCE - DAY 38

Construction work has begun. Cement is being mixed, buckets  
of mortar taken into the house. Rudolph supervises. Janet  
brings cold lemonade for the workers.

39 INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING 39

Family dinner. Rudolph eats silently without looking up from  
his plate. John eyes him without eating. Janet tries to eat,  
but can't stop staring at them both.

JANET

Church was good.

RUDOLPH & JOHN

Uhm.

Silence.

JANET

I think you made a good analogy  
with the apples and strawberries.

RUDOLPH & JOHN

Uhm.

JANET

I think I'm going to go jump off a  
bridge now.

RUDOLPH & JOHN

Uhm.

Janet hits the table hard.

RUDOLPH

Did you just ---

JANET

I'm not going to sit through this  
another day.

RUDOLPH

Through what?

JANET  
This.

RUDOLPH  
(to John)  
You know what she's talking about  
son.

JOHN  
No idea.

JANET  
We used to be a family. We talked  
about our day. We talked about our  
week. We argued a lot, but we  
talked. Now all I can ever get from  
you two is uhm. I need more than a  
grunt.

RUDOLPH  
Okay honey.

JANET  
That's it?

RUDOLPH  
That was more than a grunt.

John smiles. Janet appreciates the gesture.

JANET  
You're not usually this agreeing.

RUDOLPH  
I'm trying to change.

JANET  
Why?

RUDOLPH  
So you guys don't walk out on me  
too okay.

Pause.

JANET  
Its not your fault Caleb left.

RUDOLPH  
Whose fault was it?

Silence.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
Maybe I should just divide up  
what's left and give you two so you  
can go too.

JANET  
Who said we wanted to go anywhere?

RUDOLPH  
A lot of things go unsaid in this  
house.

JANET  
John, please get me a bible.

John goes for a Bible and gives it to Janet. She goes around  
to her moping husband and slaps him across the head with it.

JANET (CONT'D)  
Lying spirit I rebuke you in the  
name of Jesus.

RUDOLPH  
I am not possessed.

JANET  
Those words coming out of your  
mouth are not yours.

She hits him again. He gets up and grabs the Bible away from  
her.

RUDOLPH  
Okay. I guess I deserved that.

JANET  
You are still the man of this  
house. You still have a wife and a  
son in this house. Pull yourself  
together.

RUDOLPH  
Can I finish my dinner first? Its  
really good.

JANET  
Okay, even though I know you're  
lying.

RUDOLPH  
You know.

JANET  
Cooking was never my strong point,  
but I always appreciated the  
compliments --- even though I know  
you don't mean it.

RUDOLPH  
Oh...well, it is getting better.

JANET  
You're still lying.

RUDOLPH  
Can we order out sometimes?

JANET  
I signed up to do a cooking course.

RUDOLPH  
Great. Who is paying for that?

JANET  
You are.

RUDOLPH  
Awesome. Let's finish our dinner.

They sit back down to eat. Rudolph punches John on his  
shoulder.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
That's for giving Mom the Bible.

Rudolph gives him another punch.

JOHN  
What was that for?

RUDOLPH  
Telling your Mom she's a bad cook.

JOHN  
I did not.

Rudolph looks at Janet.

JANET  
He didn't tell me.

RUDOLPH  
How'd you know?

JANET  
A woman knows.

RUDOLPH  
 (to John)  
 I take that last punch back.

John folds his fist to punch him.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)  
 You do that and you'll be grounded.

John goes back to eating. He picks something from the plate...considers...flips it on his father.

Janet's mouth is open. Nobody is sure how he's gonna react. Rudolph sits in silence with a serious expression on his face...then starts throwing food back at them both. Food fight!

They are laughing and having fun, while creating a complete mess of the dining area...but for now, it doesn't matter.

40 INT. CLUB - MORNING

40

Caleb is passed out on the couch. The place is a mess. Broken bottles, half filled cups of wine, some spilled on the floor. Food particles everywhere.

Caleb is doused with a bucket of water. He comes to life. The Club Owner MR. NEWTON, early 60's, is sitting opposite him. One of his bodyguards leave with the empty bucket.

MR. NEWTON  
 How you feeling?

CALEB  
 Like I was hit by a truck.

MR. NEWTON  
 Reminds me of when I was young,  
 free and stupid.

CALEB  
 Who are you?

MR. NEWTON  
 I own this club.

CALEB  
 Okay, where are my friends?

MR. NEWTON  
 If you're referring to those people  
 you have been hanging out  
 with...They left.

CALEB  
They wouldn't leave without me.

MR. NEWTON  
They can --- and they did.

CALEB  
Why?

MR. NEWTON  
Ask them when you see them.  
(takes a receipt from his  
pocket. Unfolds it)  
Right now I'm only concerned about  
you settling this bill plus a 20%  
mark up to get this place cleaned  
up.

Caleb takes the receipt without even looking at it.

CALEB  
You have my credit card.

MR. NEWTON  
I tried it twice. Declined.

CALEB  
What about my debit card?

MR. NEWTON  
Declined.

CALEB  
That's not possible. Bryan will  
write you a check.

MR. NEWTON  
I have two problems with that.  
Bryan is not here. I don't accept  
checks.

CALEB  
Fine. How much do I owe you. A  
thousand? Two thousand?

Caleb looks at the receipt.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
I owe you four hundred grand!!!

MR. NEWTON  
Plus twenty percent.

CALEB  
How is this possible?

MR. NEWTON  
You owe for credit you have made over the past six months here in this club, as well as rent for the house in Jacks Hill.

CALEB  
You're my Landlord?

MR. NEWTON  
I need you to settle this bill and leave.

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

MR. NEWTON  
I wouldn't be sitting here if you were.

CALEB  
Bryan had access to all my accounts. He has been paying my bills.

MR. NEWTON  
Bryan and your other friends left and said you would take care of it. Now, I need you to settle this today.

CALEB  
How could they do this to me?

MR. NEWTON  
I would prefer we do this the easy way. But there is always the other option.

(motions for one of his  
bodyguards to come  
closer)

CALEB  
Please. Can I have a few days to sort this out?

MR. NEWTON  
I'm not letting you out of my sight.

(MORE)

MR. NEWTON (CONT'D)

You pay me now or Butch here will break you into four hundred thousand pieces. Your choice.

CALEB

I have no money.

Butch grabs Caleb and pulls him out of the chair.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Please. There must be another way we can settle this.

MR. NEWTON

Is there someone you can call?

Caleb thinks.

CALEB

No.

Mr. Newton gestures and Butch releases Caleb. He sits down.

MR. NEWTON

Sad. I know you son. I have been to your father's church. I have seen you sing on the choir and walk the streets behind him. I was more than disappointed to see you here. Another prodigal son too stupid to see that what he left behind is what everybody needs.

CALEB

You don't know me.

MR. NEWTON

I know the road you're on. However different you might think you are from everybody else, this road takes you to the same place.

CALEB

If you know this road so well, why are you on it and not in Church.

MR. NEWTON

I am a fool in love with his money. I'm too weak to walk away from it, but I do have respect for the church and people like your father.  
(MORE)

MR. NEWTON (CONT'D)

I know where I should or need to be and would like to think I'm on the road to God so occasionally when I pass people like you going the opposite direction, I do wonder.

CALEB

What happens now?

MR. NEWTON

I will give you a chance to pay your debt.

CALEB

How?

MR. NEWTON

Normally I would have sent you to prison for ten years. 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?

MR. NEWTON

Not exactly.

41 EXT. PIG FARM - DAY

41

Caleb is in the pig pen among hungry pigs feeding them from a basket. Tears form in his eyes and he makes a futile attempt to suppress his emotions.

CALEB'S 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. (Lamentations 1:1-2)

42

EXT. SEASIDE - EVENING

42

Rudolph and John sit by a pier fishing. They look at the sun going down over the horizon in silence. Rudolph looks at John who looks back. They share a smile.

JOHN

I never thought it was possible for you to change.

RUDOLPH

With God all things are possible.

JOHN

I would have left too you know. Just a little differently from my brother.

RUDOLPH

What did you have in mind?

JOHN

Get married to someone living abroad. I had a few prospects.

RUDOLPH

That's not a good reason to marry.

JOHN

I know. But there are Christians marrying for less noble reasons, so I thought, why not.

RUDOLPH

How about now?

JOHN

Think I'm gonna stick around for a bit. Our home needs at least one sane person around.

Rudolph laughs at this comment. The laugh quickly gives way to a deeper thought. John notices.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Do you still look out for Caleb to return.

Pause.

RUDOLPH

Everyday.

Pause.

JOHN  
Me too. I miss him.

RUDOLPH  
Wherever he is, I guess he's having  
the time of his life.

JOHN  
Girls, fine wine, loud  
incomprehensible music and some  
great food.

RUDOLPH  
I would go for some great food.

JANET'S VOICE  
I heard that.

Janet is sitting in the parked car, half asleep.

43 EXT. PIG FARM - EVENING

43

Caleb sits by the side of the pig pen. His clothes ragged and  
dirty. His face in need of water and soap. His lips cracked  
from dehydration and hunger.

He pulls a ear of corn from his bag and looks at it ---  
desires it --- will soon resort to eating it.

CALEBS VOICE  
Jerusalem has sinned greatly, so  
she has been tossed away like a  
filthy rag. All who once honoured  
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.'  
(Lamentations 1:8-9) Who will  
rescue me from this body of death?

44 INT. CLUB - EVENING - FIVE YEARS LATER

44

Music is blasting from the speaker boxes. Few people are  
present. DJ makes another selection and mumbles something  
over the microphone.

Bryan and Celeste comes through the entrance and make their way across the room. They take a seat in their usual spot away from the action.

BRYAN

Five years and nothing has changed.

CELESTE

This club needs some life.

BRYAN

Too bad it's the only one in town.

CELESTE

These pass few months have been crazy.

Caleb sneaks through the back door. He goes to an abandoned table where someone has just eaten a burger and some fries leaving remnants behind. Caleb looks around and helps himself to the left overs.

He looks across the room and sees Bryan and Celeste, laughing and talking. His expression twist in rage. He storms over and grabs Bryan.

Bryan pulls a knife and eases Caleb off.

BRYAN

Do I know you?

CALEB

I have been living like this for five years because of you.

Pause. Moment of recognition.

BRYAN

Caleb. Man I wouldn't recognize you behind all that --- is that pig poo I smell?

CALEB

How could you do this to me?  
(to Celeste)  
And you. I thought we had something.

CELESTE

We did.

CALEB

Is that all you have to say?

BRYAN

It was nothing personal.

CALEB

We were supposed to be friends.

BRYAN

In my book, friends are people who take you for what you got. We were friends as long as you had something to give.

CELESTE

There is no such thing as a free ride.

CALEB

You could have told me that before you took all my money.

BRYAN

I didn't take anything. It was a fair trade. You wanted a certain lifestyle, I made sure you had it.

CELESTE

You should go home to your daddy Caleb. You don't belong here.

CALEB

I thought you loved me.

CELESTE

Maybe I don't know what love is.

BRYAN

Why don't you crawl back into the pen you crawled out of. I don't think the boss man is going to appreciate you being up in his club like this.

CALEB

The world is round. 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.

Bryan and Celeste laughs.

BRYAN  
See yah man, wouldn't want to be  
yah.

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

BRYAN (CONT'D)  
Let's go baby. This place has a  
stench I can't stand.

Bryan leaves. Celeste leaves right behind him. Caleb stands hopelessly defeated.

Mr. Newton comes over to him.

MR. NEWTON  
Why are you in here?

CALEB  
I was stealing some left over food.

Pause.

MR. NEWTON  
At least you are honest. You  
shouldn't be in here.

CALEB  
Sorry.

Caleb is about to walk away.

MR. NEWTON  
You should go.

CALEB  
I've already fed the pigs.

MR. NEWTON  
I mean, you should go home.

CALEB  
I don't understand.

MR. NEWTON  
You have more than paid your debt  
in full. You are a free man.

Mr. Newton takes out an envelop and gives it to Caleb.

MR. NEWTON (CONT'D)  
You actually made more money than  
the debt you owe, so here's the  
difference. Should be enough to get  
you cleaned up and take you home.

CALEB  
I'm free?

MR. NEWTON  
Unless you want to stay on another  
year.

CALEB  
As much as I enjoy this line of  
work...I don't think so.

MR. NEWTON  
Go home Caleb.

CALEB  
I can't.

MR. NEWTON  
Why not?

CALEB  
My father would never accept me  
back as his son.

MR. NEWTON  
With all that's going on, you might  
not have to worry about that.

CALEB  
What do you mean?

MR. NEWTON  
The world has changed son.  
Something has happened. I can't  
tell you what. You have to see it  
for yourself. You know your way  
out. The guards will not stand in  
your way this time.

Mr. Newton walks away leaving Caleb with more questions than  
answers.

Caleb looks at the money.

CALEB

Maybe my father will not accept me as his son. But maybe I will ask him for a job on his farm. Maybe I will be able to eat at the table once more. All those Sunday dinners I never ate. I really messed up big time. God...if at all you do hear a sinners prayer...help me.

Caleb walks towards the exit.

45 EXT. STREETS - EVENING

45

Caleb heads up the road...empty handed...away from the city life....away from what he once considered to be freedom. He walks and reflects on pass moments.

CALEBS VOICE

I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long.

46 EXT. HARBOUR FRONT - EVENING

46

Caleb sits on a bench overlooking the harbour. Somebody passes and drops some coins at his feet.

CALEBS VOICE

He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones; he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead long ago.

Caleb looks at the envelop in his hand. He sees a homeless man nearby. He picks up the coins from off the ground and walks over to the homeless man. He gives him the envelop. The homeless man opens it and sees the money, his face explodes in a toothless grin.

Caleb walks away.

## CALEBS VOICE (CONT'D)

I call this to mind and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; Great is your faithfulness. The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him...

47 INT. JAMES RESIDENCE - MORNING 47

The front door opens and Caleb walks in. He looks around. No one in sight.

CALEB

Pops. Mom.

Caleb walks to the living room.

48 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING 48

The house is remarkably different. Dusty, unkept. Two of the dining room chairs are toppled over, a picture hangs loosely on the wall, dirty dishes on the table. A half eaten dinner that has spoiled and dried up after worms have had their fill.

There is a suit of clothing hanging over Rudolph's chair and also a pair of shoes where feet used to be. There is also a suit of clothes for Janet and John.

CALEB

Pops.

No answer.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Mom.

Sister Florence steps out of the kitchen drinking a coke. She is ruffled and looks hungry and dehydrated. Caleb turns to see her and is frightened at the sight of her.

SIS. FLORENCE

Nobody's here but us two.

CALEB

Sister Florence!

SIS. FLORENCE  
(laughs briefly)  
Sister....now that's funny.

CALEB  
What are you doing here Sister  
Florence? Where is everybody and  
why is this place such a mess?

SIS. FLORENCE  
Can we do the questions one at a  
time and please stop calling me  
sister.

CALEB  
Why?

SIS. FLORENCE  
I wouldn't be here if I was.

Nothing is making any sense to Caleb.

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

SIS. FLORENCE  
I could ask you the same question.

CALEB  
What is going on?

SIS. FLORENCE  
Plenty.

CALEB  
Where is my family?

SIS. FLORENCE  
Gone.

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

SIS. FLORENCE  
If you keep shooting bulk questions  
at me, I'm going to eventually shut  
down.

Caleb holds his head out of frustration. He breathes to calm himself.

SIS. FLORENCE (CONT'D)  
Or maybe I don't want you to ask me  
any questions because I am going to  
have to face the answers. And maybe  
I don't want to do that.

Sister Florence heads for the door. Caleb grabs her.

CALEB  
Just tell me what is going on.

SIS. FLORENCE  
How is it that you don't know?

CALEB  
Know what?

SIS. FLORENCE  
You know that thing the fanatics  
were always saying. Maranatha!  
Maranatha! Jesus is coming soon.

CALEB  
Yes.

SIS. FLORENCE  
He did.

CALEB  
What do you mean?

SIS. FLORENCE  
Jesus came.

CALEB  
Stop talking rubbish.

SIS. FLORENCE  
We missed the first advent, son.

Pause.

CALEB  
The rapture?

SIS. FLORENCE  
Yes. It happened over seven months  
ago. Two hundred million people  
vanished.

Caleb sits at his place around the dinner table.

CALEB  
That's not possible.

The scene begins to change --- to rebuild. It reverts to what it used to be on a Sunday evening. The family is having dinner. Rudolph looks at Caleb and smiles. Suddenly, Rudolph, Janet and John vanishes into thin air.

The scene returns to its present state.

SIS. FLORENCE

Where have you been Caleb? The media was all over this. Its not everyday millions of people disappear into thin air.

CALEB

I took a detour. Found myself in a dark place. No access to the outside world.

SIS. FLORENCE

Too bad. You could have been dining with Jesus.

CALEB

Why were you left behind? You were active in Church. Why are you still here?

SIS. FLORENCE

I thought I could be saved by works. Turned out I also needed the faith.

CALEB

You didn't believe?

SIS. FLORENCE

I knew about Jesus but I never met him. I was afraid. He asks for too much and there was just some parts of me I wasn't willing to surrender.

CALEB

Hypocrite!

SIS. FLORENCE

You should be welcoming me to the club. We both pretended to be someone we were not. We were both wrong and we were both left behind.

Sister Florence fishes out a letter from her pocket.

SIS. FLORENCE (CONT'D)  
Your father left you a letter.

Caleb examines the crumpled letter.

CALEB  
You read my letter?

SIS. FLORENCE  
Several times. I had nothing else  
to do.

CALEB  
This is confidential.

SIS. FLORENCE  
Didn't think I would actually see  
you to deliver it.

Caleb pulls out the letter and begins to read.

49

INT. LIVING/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

49

Family Dinner. Janet and John is having their dinner. Rudolph  
is writing a letter.

RUDOLPHS VOICE  
My son. We're having dinner another  
Sunday without you. I miss you. We  
all do. I look for you to return to  
me every single day. It's hard to  
believe that four years have 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.  
Yes, I said it. A lot can change in  
four years. I had to face myself  
and the choices I made over the  
years. I had to change. I just  
wanted you to know that --- I love  
you. It's so easy to write. 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. I  
promise. We have a lot of catching  
up to do son and you will be glad  
to know that ----

50

INT. LIVING ROOM - PRESENT

50

Caleb is in tears. Sister Florence is now sitting around the table.

SIS. FLORENCE

I guess that was when it happened. I was busy in a married man's bed. Went to sleep. Woke up, his daughter was missing. Then everything got crazy. Like a thief in the night ---

CALEB

What am I supposed to do now?

Pause.

SIS. FLORENCE

Survive.

Sister Florence gets up and leaves.

CALEBS VOICE

This is the voice of a man who knew the word but never knew the writer; who knew salvation, but never knew the saviour. There remains just a few of us who will die before this seven year period is over because we finally accepted the truth. The anti-Christ has assumed his throne in the temple of God. To buy food, clothes, soap and work, we have to take a 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 are only one of two places that you will spend eternity. Either in Heaven or Hell. God is real. Jesus is real. The choice to accept and believe that fact is yours. I am Caleb James and this is my testimony. I am the prodigal son who did not make it back home in time.

FADE OUT.