



Evening Worship Dramas

2010 Assembly

Are You the One?

Tuesday, June 29

Matthew 11:2-6

The intention of this drama is to “set up” the Scripture reading from Matthew. The scene is set in a coffee shop. A line up forms inside the door and as Rhonda is waiting in line she notices Jenny sitting at a table flipping through a magazine. She calls to her and eventually joins her for coffee and conversation. Eventually they get around to talking about faith and church and the fact that Jenny is making an “exit” from the church.

Characters take their places.... In line for coffee and at a table reading the paper.

Rhonda: (to the person standing in front of him) It’s amazing how many people still want a hot coffee on a hot day.

Person ahead in line: When you are hooked, you’re hooked! I can’t get through a day without this stuff.

Rhonda: It’s sad... same with me. Three kids doesn’t make it any easier.

Person ahead in line: I can believe that.

Person behind the counter: Can I help whose next, please?

Rhonda: (looking around... seeing Jenny) Hey Jenny! Jenny! (Jenny looks up.... Notices Rhonda, smiles and waves nervously and somewhat unexcitedly) Can I join you Jenny?

Jenny: (softly and disappointed) Uh... sure.

Rhonda: I’ll be right there. Can I get you anything?

Jenny: No, no... I’m good. (turning to the congregation) I don’t need this right now. Can’t I just sit here and have my coffee and read in peace and quiet? How do I get

out of here. (checking cell phone) Now would be a good time to get a call... or a text... or something.

Rhonda: (enthusiastically hurrying over to the table and hugging Jenny) Jenny, how are you? I haven't seen you in a long time.

Jenny: Yeah... yeah... its been a while.

Rhonda: So where have you been? The company have you travelling over weekends now? ... with the economy being tight and everything.

Jenny: No... the company has been good to me.

Rhonda: So are you busy with your kids' sports and stuff? I know mine keep me going so much... I feel like all I do is laundry and drive.

Jenny: Yeah, the kids have a few things going on, but it has been manageable.

Rhonda: (settling down a little) So, have you been camping every weekend? You know Calgary, we only have about four good weekends in the summer.

Jenny: Actually no. We have only been out once, but we have been at home most weekends.

Rhonda: Oh.... Well, I haven't seen you in church the last while. Is everything okay?

Jenny: Yeah, yeah... it has just been so busy, you know..... (pause) Well actually, it is more than that. I don't know what is going on Rhonda. It seems that a lot of my world is not making much sense any more.

Rhonda: What do you mean?

Jenny: Oh, I don't even know how to talk about this... (exhale)

Rhonda: Just try.

Jenny: Okay. My daughter comes home from school and the other girls want her to go to a party where she knows there will be drinking and drugs. Some of her friends are already having sex. My husband's boss is pressuring him to make the numbers in the accounting department look a little better, and it seems that he is working longer hours for less pay. So I have these things in my head and I go to church on Sunday morning and we sing these songs and hear a sermon about being 'saved by faith', or 'God is love', and Rhonda, it is just not connecting with me anymore.

Rhonda: Last Sunday the pastor preached about 'truth'.

Jenny: Truth? What is truth, Rhonda? We have natural and human disasters going on all around the world. More troops and more ammunition is being shipped to Afghanistan, the global fight against HIV/AIDS is being lost, children are dying of hunger, I don't want my daughter on drugs, or dating some tattoo-covered burn-out; my husband has to keep his job, but I know it is killing him.... And I am supposed to make sense of all of this with a sermon on 'truth'.

Rhonda: I... guess.... I found it very helpful.

Jenny: I'm sorry. I don't mean to get all upset over this. It is just that I have been doing a lot of thinking. For years I believed in everything I learned in Sunday school. Like the loaves and fishes, "Jesus multiplies for those who believe", the golden rule, "do unto others as you would have done to you" ... all those things. But I woke up one morning and realized that I am two different people. On Sundays, I was singing those hymns, and believing those stories, and smiling, because I thought that is what a content Christian should look like. But then I missed one Sunday, and then another, and then another.... And pretty soon, I was only one person - one person who was practical, realistic, with my feet on the ground, not my head in the clouds. And I think this is where I am comfortable staying.

Rhonda: I... don't know what to say. I just really miss you.

Jenny: I miss you too, Rhonda. I do. But I just can't keep living like I did. I feel like a kid who wants to run away from home, run away from the church.

Rhonda: The church has its problems, we are not perfect people.... But where are things at with you and God?

Jenny: I don't know. I used to believe that God was right there at my side, I used to think I could sense God's presence and guidance. But I don't know anymore. I am beginning to wonder if it was all just in my imagination. Like, how do you know, Rhonda? How do you know Jesus is real, and that God is personal and all that?

Rhonda: (looking distraught) I guess I just know... in my heart, I know. (pause)

Jenny: I shouldn't have said anything (starts packing up).

Rhonda: No, no, thanks for talking to me about this. Maybe I can help you get your faith put back together.

Jenny: See, that's it, Rhonda. I don't know if I want it back together... at least the way it was. (checking phone and getting up) I have to go.

Rhonda: Can we talk again sometime?

Jenny: (thinks about it) Sure. Call me.

You Are the Holy One

Wednesday, June 30

This time Rhonda is waiting at the table with two coffees and Jenny comes in to join her. An initial wave and then a hug...

Rhonda: So how have you been?

Jenny: Good. And, I am so sorry that I dumped all that stuff on you last week. I should have just not said anything. With all you have going on, you didn't need me deconstructing your world view.

Rhonda: No, it was good.

Jenny: Oh, you are so forgiving.

Rhonda: No, I really mean it was good. I needed that conversation.

Jenny: What do you mean?

Rhonda: I can't stop thinking about some of the things you said.

Jenny: I'm sorry... I knew I said too much.

Rhonda: No, no, it was good. Actually..., you put into words some of the things that I have been thinking too. I just hadn't let myself go there.

Jenny: Why not?

Rhonda: For fear of ending up where you are.

Jenny: Is there something wrong with where I am?

Rhonda: Well look, Jenny. You have stopped coming to church, you used to believe in a God who was up-close and now you don't, or you don't know if you do. If you are not in fellowship with believers anymore, where are your values now? What ethic are you going to live by? When your daughter talks to you about some of the pressures of friendship and school, what guides your response now? And what are you living your life for now?

Jenny: I have gone to church for so many years, and I have met many wonderful people. I have met people who have a lot of Bible knowledge, they have grown up in Christian homes and they can talk about theology very well. But I think we both know that many of them have the same problems, make the same mistakes, harbour

the same doubts, indulge in the same vices, and lack the same spark in their eye that unchurched people often do - the only difference being that church people use religious language to define their problems. And add to that, the guilt that comes because Christians shouldn't have doubts. Isn't the gospel of Jesus Christ supposed to make a bigger difference than this?

Rhonda: Maybe that is OUR problem, Jenny.

Jenny: What do you mean?

Rhonda: Maybe the reason for all of that stuff you said is that we expect faith to come easy. Think about it. We work hard at family relationships – always thinking about what decisions are best for our kids; we work hard at making money – there are so many expenses; we get up early and go to bed late, knowing what it takes to keep it all together. Yet when it comes to faith, we want it to be easy. We want it to be like flipping a switch to be in God's presence, and there we understand all mystery and all theology without any effort. Is that really the way faith is supposed to be?

Jenny: Maybe not.

Rhonda: Jenny.... I think deep down, we are feeling the same things. And maybe that is good. The other day I even wondered if it was God making us restless. Let's work at this together, okay. Let's talk about our questions, our doubts, and everything that keeps us from really knowing.

Jenny: Okay. Okay, but what if we come out with more questions than we have now?

Rhonda: Deep down I still believe God is faithful. So I guess we'll see.

(John 6:47-69 follows immediately after the drama ends)