

A Tiger in a Cage

By

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Theme:

This play conveys the way that many Christians feel when they look at all of the "fun" things that they have to give up as soon as they become Christians. Rather than look at the restrictions that are placed on our lives, we should look at our "confinement" as protection from the world around us.

Biblical Reference:

John 17:14

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

Approximate Running Time:

5-10 minutes

Props:

The play is set in a restaurant, so whatever you can do to make the audience believe that they are looking at a table in a restaurant would be helpful.

Cast of Characters:

Bill: Bill is a Christian man who likes to talk with other Christians about his faith. He goes to the same church as Ted and Beth.

Ted: Ted is a Christian man. He is a lot like Bill. They are friends and enjoy each other's company.

Beth: Beth is a Christian woman who has a well-defined faith. She is good friends with both Bill and Ted. She isn't afraid to tell them what she thinks.

Notes:

The names of the characters of this play can be changed to those of the actors.

The characters of this play can be either male or female.

Scene:

Ted and Beth are sitting down at a restaurant. Bill approaches them and asks if he can join them.

Bill: Hello Ted, Beth. Do you mind if I join you.

Ted: No problem.

Beth: Sure.

Bill: I'm not interrupting anything am I?

Ted: Well, you are in a way, but it's good that you came along when you did.

Beth: We were just discussing this Sunday's sermon and we were kinda' stuck on whether or not we should be happy about what pastor was saying.

Ted: It would be good for you to offer your opinions so that we can maybe break up this little intellectual log jam that we've got goin' here.

Bill: I'll do my best. So, what kind of a log jam are we talkin' about?

Ted: Well, we were talking about how some Christians feel caged in by their Christianity.

Beth: You know. I can't do this. I have to do that. I'm trapped. I'm stuck. I'm imprisoned.

Bill: Well, actually, Sunday afternoon, while I was thinking about that sermon, I thought of the trip that we took to the zoo last week.

Ted: The sermon made you think about the zoo?

Bill: Stay with me on this one. You see, while I was at the zoo I couldn't help but notice that most of the animals did nothing but pace back and forth from one side of their cages to the other.

Ted: What do bored animals have to do with the do's and don'ts of Christianity?

Bill: Those animals have so much potential, but they can't do anything with it because they are stuck in their cages.

Ted: Oh, I get it.

Bill: I mean, when I looked in the bear habitat I could see that the walls were wet where the bears rubbed against them. The bear would walk from one side of his cage to the other. He would rub his side against the wall, turn around, and head the other way. Then he would do the same thing all over again. I could tell that he did the same thing all day because the facade of the wall was worn a bit right where he rubbed against it.

Ted: I know what you mean. I was at the zoo a few months ago and I noticed the same thing - only I was looking at the tiger cage.

Bill: I can remember the tiger cage too.

Ted: You could hear the Tiger's nails scraping on the concrete floor as he walked back and forth from one side of his cage to the other.

Bill: It almost seemed as if he was trying to find a way out of the cage.

Ted: I'm sure that he knew every square inch of the cage, but I think that you're right. He was still looking for a way out of it.

Bill: [*Proving his point.*] And that's a lot like being a Christian. We walk back and forth in our cage trying to find a way out of it even though we know that there really isn't a way out. We are able to look out at the rest of the world and the fun that they're having and we feel trapped.

Beth: I think that you're looking at it from the wrong perspective. What would you say if I said that the tiger is really better off inside the cage?

Bill: What are you nuts?

Ted: Better off?

Beth: Yeah, better off. He gets all the food that he needs, he is protected from his enemies, he isn't allowed to do others any harm, and he is in a position to allow others to learn from him.

Ted: I see what you're saying.

Beth: You have to realize that the Lord has placed us in a cage, so to speak, to protect us from the world that is around us. He knows that it's a jungle out there and that we're better off if we're in a protected environment.

Bill: But we don't really live inside a cage, you know. We're always able to go out in the real world and get involved in sin.

Beth: That's right. The door to the cage is always open. You can leave the cage at any time. God knows that you're better off while your inside of the cage because you're protected from the temptations of the enemy. Once you leave the cage it is much harder to fight off the temptations. It's just like what you were saying about the zoo. If the tiger leaves that cage he's much more apt to eat somebody. If he eats somebody he'll be shot. The trainer knows that the tiger will be shot if he gets out of the cage and eats someone so he makes sure that the tiger stays inside no matter what the tiger has to say about it.

Ted: Are you saying that if we go outside of God's will that we'll be shot?

Beth: No. I'm saying that we should look at the benefits from being removed from a sinful world rather than have the attitude that we're missing out on a lot of life because we're stuck inside a cage all the time.

Bill: [*Looking at his watch.*] Hey, we've got to get back to work.

Ted: Thanks for adding your perspective.


Beth: Yeah, thanks for helping me to prove my point.

[*They begin to exit.*]

Bill: Anytime. You just let me know when you have some other things that I can help you out with.

[*They exit.*]

- CURTAIN -

A decorative flourish consisting of a central horizontal line with a small, symmetrical, ornate scrollwork design in the middle, extending outwards to the left and right.

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