

Can You Still Forgive Me?

By

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Theme:

This play conveys God's omnipresence. How He is able to know what we have done even though there isn't anyone else around to witness it. Then the play transitions into God's forgiveness. I am using three specific stories here. That of Zacchaeus, the woman at the well, and the criminals on the cross.

Biblical References:

Luke 23:39-43

The story of the criminal on the cross.

John 4:7-30

The story of the woman at the well.

Luke 19:1-10

The story of Zacchaeus.

Approximate Running Time:

15 minutes

Props:

A backpack.

Chris needs a watch.

Teacher need a briefcase.

Cast of Characters:

Chris: A strong Christian teenager who is not afraid to share his faith with his friends. He should be played as a frail looking youth. This part could also be played by a girl.

Peter: A doubter. This teenager is skeptical about everything. He is a friend of Chris and Paul's but he is not a Christian.

Paul: A young Christian who looks to Chris for leading. He is not afraid of his new found faith but he is not sure of how it should be exhibited in his life.

Teacher: Somewhat of an absent minded teacher who has his heart in the right place. This part can be played by either a man or a woman.

Butch: A bully who knows Chris, Peter, and Paul from school.

Scene:

Chris and Peter meet outside the church before the second day of DVBS.

Chris: [Walking up to Paul.] Hello Paul, it's good to see you again.

Paul: Hey Chris, it's good to see you too.

Chris: Did you get a chance to think about yesterday's lesson at all?

Paul: I sure did. I am glad that we can know that God is there to help us through any situation that we are in.

Chris: I agree.

Paul: Chris? I have somethin' to ask you. Do you think that we have time before DVBS starts?

Chris: [Looking at his watch.] Yes, we have a few minutes. What's on your mind?

Paul: Last week in Sunday school we learned that God can see and hear all that we do. We learned that no matter how secretive we are about what we do, God knows about it. Do you believe that?

Chris: Yes I do. God has the ability to be everywhere at the same time. That means that He is always right by your side, ready to help whenever you call for him. But that also means that He is always there to see when you do something wrong.

Paul: Well, I guess that means that He would be able to tell when someone cheats on a test.

Chris: Yep.

Paul: And I guess that means that He knows when someone tells a lie.

Chris: Yep.

Paul: And I guess that means that He knows when someone steals something.

Chris: Yes, but don't forget that God also knows when we even have an evil thought. If we feel hatred towards someone, or if we feel like shouting something out loud. To God it's as if we did shout that out loud, or as if we did do something bad to that person.

Paul: Will God judge us for those kinda things?

Chris: Yes. Remember, God doesn't just look at the outward appearance of a man, He looks at the desires of our hearts.

Paul: Will God forgive us for those things that we thought about doing, but never really did?

Chris: Paul, God can and will forgive you for anything that you have done. All that you have to do is ask Him to forgive you and really mean what you say.


Paul: Thanks Chris. You have helped me a lot. Can you go inside now? I have a few things to say to the Lord. I'd kinda like to do it alone - if you don't mind.

Chris: [*Placing his hand on Paul's shoulder as an act of compassion and friendship.*] I don't mind at all. I'll see you inside.

Paul: [*Looking up to God in prayer.*] Dear Lord, I'm sorry for all of those times that I have done things that I shouldn't have done. Like when I cheated on those tests in school, or when I wanted to do bad things to my brother to get back at him for what he did to me. Now that I know that You are always right here with me I will try to always treat other people with kindness rather than with hatred. Please help me treat them as you would treat them if you were me. Thank you. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

[*Paul smiles at God, then turns and walks inside of the church.*]

- CURTAIN -



SERMON BREAK

Scene II

Scene: Peter is positioned off to stage right. The teacher is sitting off at stage left. He is standing with his back to his open briefcase. He is looking out of the window, not aware of what is going on around him. Peter skirts across to the opposite side of the stage to steal the teacher's briefcase. He then runs back around to the other side of the stage and proceeds to hide the briefcase. The teacher frantically searches for the briefcase, then crosses the stage, walks past Peter, Peter smiles shyly at him, and the teacher exits the stage. Then Peter strolls back onto the stage in a leisurely manner. Chris enters from stage left. The two meet at center stage.

Chris: Hello Peter. I was beginning to think that you weren't here today.

Peter: I've been around. There were a few things that I had to do before I came to class today.

Chris: Well, you missed a great lesson. We learned that God knows all about everything that we do or say. Even the things that we do when no one else is there to see us do them.

Peter: Do you mean that God knows all about every single thing that we do?

Chris: That's what the Bible says.

[Peter pauses, contemplating what he has just done.]

Peter: Hey Chris. If I were to tell you that a person took something that belongs to someone else without asking that person if he can take it. Let's say that no one knows that this person has taken this thing. This person had taken this thing just to play a prank on this other person. Is God upset with the person who was playing the joke? Is he sinning by playing the joke?

Chris: No, God has a sense of humor too, but if the person had taken the object to cause harm to the other person, then God will know the person's intent and then it is sin.

Peter: Will God really know if the person meant to do harm, or really meant for it to be a joke?

Chris: Peter, God knows everything.

Peter: What if it all started out to be a joke, but things get out of hand and someone ends up being hurt by the whole thing?

Chris: Then the person who started it had better end it fast. And he better apologize and ask for forgiveness from both God and the person that he has sinned against.

Peter: Thanks Chris. I have to go.

[Peter exits stage left. Chris shrugs his shoulders and exits stage right. Peter goes to recover the briefcase and comes back on the stage to meet with the teacher. The teacher enters the stage from the opposite side and realizes that Peter is holding his briefcase. He moves towards Peter quickly as he calls out to him.]

Teacher: Peter, where did you find my briefcase. I have been looking all over for it.

Peter: *[Looks to heaven in indecision.]* Well, actually, I didn't really find it. I took it and hid it while your back was turned. I'm sorry Mr. X, I didn't mean to cause any trouble, I was only trying to play a trick on you. Do you forgive me.

Teacher: *[Opening the briefcase to inspect the contents.]* You didn't intend to steal anything inside my briefcase?

Peter: No sir, I only meant to be funny.


Teacher: Well, it looks as if everything is still in order. *[Pause.]* I forgive you. Besides, if God can forgive you for anything, then I surely can forgive you for a little thing like this.

Peter: Whew, I was afraid that I was going to get into trouble. I thought that you would think that I took the briefcase to make you have to miss teaching your classes and that you wouldn't let me explain to you that I was only fooling around. Thanks for listening to me.

Teacher: Thanks for being honest. I am surprised and proud of the way that you admitted that you had done wrong. If only the rest of us could admit that we have done wrong as easily as you have just done.

Peter: [*Looking toward Heaven.*] Believe me, it wasn't as easy as you think.

- CURTAIN -



SERMON BREAK

Scene III

Scene: Chris, Peter, and Paul are on stage together. Chris is standing at center stage. Peter is on his left and Paul is on his right. The visual imagery here should be that of Christ and the two criminals on the cross.

Paul: I am glad that God is able to forgive anything that I have done.

Peter: I doubt that God can forgive us for everything that we have done.

Paul: I know that God can forgive us for everything that we have done.

Peter: I wonder if God can forgive me for the things that I have done when no one else was around to see me.

Paul: I know that God can forgive us for everything that we have done, whether anyone else saw it or not.

Peter: I wonder why Jesus had to die on the cross.

Paul: He died so that we could spend all of eternity with him in heaven.

Peter: Yeah, but did He really have to die? I mean hadn't He made his point by that time?

Paul: Yes He had to die. God is just. He requires a payment for all the sin that is in our lives. If Jesus hadn't died in our place then we would still owe God for our sins.

Peter: Now, you're telling me that Jesus took all of my sins with him on the cross?

Chris: Jesus died on the cross to satisfy God's requirement of a blood offering for sin. Because of his death, God is able to separate the sin in your life from you and throw it far away.

Peter: How far?

Paul: As far as the east is from the west.

Peter: Now what does that mean?

Chris: Well, which way is east?

Peter: [*Peter points in the direction of east.*] That way.

Chris: And how far do you have to go until you get to the end of east?

Peter: You can't get to the end of east. It goes on forever.

Paul: That's right.

Chris: Now, let's say that you could be at the end of east.

Paul: Now, where is west?

Peter: [*Peter points west.*] That way.

Chris: And how far do you have to go until you get to the end of west?

Peter: It's the same as going east. You'll never get there.

Paul: Right. Now, you are standing here at the end of east. Let's say that there could be an end to west. God throws your sin from where you are at the end of east over to the end of west.

Chris: [*Chris moves to the east side of the stage.*] You are here at the east.

Paul: [*Paul moves to the west side of the stage.*] And your sin is here at the west.

Chris: How far apart are you from each other?

Peter: That's a long way. Actually, it is as far as the east is from the west. I don't think that I'll be seeing any of that sin ever again.

Chris: That's right.

Paul: The next time that you are thinking about whether or not God has forgiven you from your sins, just think about how far the east is from the west.

Chris: And you will remember that you won't be seeing your sin ever again.

- CURTAIN -



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