

Don't Be Happy - Worry

By

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Theme:

This play conveys the fact that we as Christians need to express joy in our new found, or old found, faith in the Lord and not be afraid of what others are going to think about how we exhibit that joy.

Biblical Reference:

Matthew 6:34

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Approximate Running Time:

10 minutes

Props:

A Bible
A folder stuffed with papers
A comfortable easy chair
A trash can

Cast of Characters:

Beth: Beth is an uptight, "by the book," strict, nosy, pesky woman. Her rude and intrusive behavior often offends others as she pokes her nose into their business.

Josh: Josh is a new Christian. He is experiencing the joy of the Lord in a powerful way and he isn't afraid to share the joy, or his newfound faith, with others.

Scene:

The comfortable easy chair is at center stage. The trash can is just off to the side of it. As the play opens, Josh is quietly reading his Bible in the church library. Beth enters, looks around as if she is searching for someone, spots Josh and quickly approaches him.

Beth: Josh, I've been looking all over for you. Where have you been?

Josh: I'm right here.

Beth: Well, I can see that. Why have you been avoiding me?

Josh: I haven't been avoiding you. I didn't even know that you were looking for me. I've been right here reading for the past oh, [*looks at his watch*] hour or so.

Beth: Well, I've been looking all over for you, but now I'm glad I've finally found you.

Josh: Why are you in such a rush to find me?

Beth: Well, as you know, I head up the committee to ensure that members of this church exhibit proper Christian behavior at all times, both within the walls of our fine Godly institution, as well as out in the cruel, mean world that we live in. [*Her voice is sweet and lovely as she mentions the church and then changes to a sinister sounding voice as she mentions the cruel world.*]

Josh: There's a committee to ensure that Christians act properly? I didn't know that.

Beth: Yes. As you probably know, there are many committees within this church, as there are with many other churches around. And there happens to be a committee which has been specifically designed to govern the Christian behavior of members of this church, and why shouldn't there be? We live in a cruel, mean world and someone has to instruct Christians on how one should act and then ensure that they are following through with the lessons.

Josh: I've never heard of such a committee.

Beth: Well, that's because you're new here. We try to keep the goings on of the committee as secret as we can. [*In a secretive voice.*] A lot of the people that we're dealing with don't want others to know that we're working with them. You don't have to worry, we're very confidential.

Josh: Why would others want to keep things a secret?

Beth: [*As if he knows.*] Oh, you know how it is.

Josh: No, I don't.

Beth: Oh, sure you do, just think about it. If you were being trained, and you will be trained in the near future, you'll want us to keep your status confidential too.

Josh: All right. Just hold on for a minute. I'm not sure what you're talking about and I'm not sure if I like what I think you're telling me. Is this some sort of a secret Christian society thing? Because if it is I don't want any part of it.

Beth: [*In a soothing tone. The difference in her tone of voice is quite noticeable.*] Josh, Josh, Josh. I don't mean to upset you. This isn't some sort of secret society or anything like that. It's just that there are certain ways that a Christian should act and there are certain ways that Christians shouldn't act. We're here to ensure that you act properly.

Josh: Then why are members of your club so concerned about having others know that they are part of the club?

Beth: This isn't a club.

Josh: I mean, that "the committee" is working with them.

Beth: You know how it is.

Josh: Not this again. Look, why don't you just consider me new at all of this club, or committee stuff, because I am, and just tell me why, exactly, you've been looking for me.

Beth: Ok. This isn't easy for me to say, I mean without your having been through the first class and all, but I guess that it's for the best. You see, unfortunately, the committee has been late in identifying you as a new Christian. We understand that you've been demonstrating too much joy, both here in church, and out in the cruel, mean world that we live in. The committee has determined that this is unacceptable Christian behavior and we have to begin working on the proper way for you to act as soon as possible.

Josh: Wait a minute. Are you telling me that exhibiting joy isn't something a Christian should be doing, at least according to the members of your committee?

Beth: That's what I'm saying. It's ok to be a joyous person, but from what I hear you've been going overboard, [*referring to her notes*] telling others about Christ, telling them how He has changed you, telling them how they need to be changed, and other things that I don't even want to mention.

Josh: If I'm not supposed to show the joy that I received when I received Christ as my savior, then what am I supposed to show?

Beth: Worry.

Josh: Worry? You've got to be kidding me.

Beth: I'm not kidding you. A Christian is supposed to be worried about many things: the sinful state of our lives, the fact that many in our lives need salvation, the downward moral trend in our society, the uncertainty of tomorrow, and a number of other matters that will be covered as a part of your training.

Josh: I can't believe this. So, if you're telling me that I'm supposed to be worried all the time, then what do you think I should do about the Bible passage that says, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." [Matthew 6:34] Or the passage that says, "But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful." [Psalm 68:3] or, "Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." [Psalm 100:2] or "Be joyful always." [1 Thessalonians 5:16]? There are plenty of references in the Bible that tell us not to worry and that tell us to be joyful. I don't understand why you have a committee to teach Christians how to act when all of that is contained in the Bible, and I don't understand why you're teaching us to act in ways that are not according to what I can read in the Word of God.

Beth: Well...I guess...I mean...I really didn't realize that the Bible said those things. That wasn't mentioned in the committee material that I was given. I had always been taught that Christians are to be serious and weren't supposed to show any joy, especially in public, I mean...what can I say?

Josh: Maybe you should sit here and read the Bible and I'll go find the others on the committee and let them know you're in here.

Beth: [*Hesitant.*] Do you think that would be proper...I mean imagine what would happen to our committee if we all began to exhibit joy and stopped our worrying.

Josh: Only good things could happen.

Beth: [*Showing that she's good at worrying.*] I don't know if I could do that, I mean, if I start to change my ways, others would have to change their ways, because after all I have been showing them the way that they should act and they'd all start to act like me if I changed, and I'm not sure if that would be a good thing for me to do, being a leader in the church and all.

Josh: I don't see why that would be a problem. I mean, you've spent a lot of time teaching others how to worry, why would it be a bad thing if they learned how to trust in the lord from you now instead?

Beth: Yeah, but if I did something like that I wouldn't be able to be on the committee anymore, and I like the committee, and if I was too good of an influence then there wouldn't even be a committee, and how would the guy that first started the committee feel if he knew that all of sudden, just because of something that I've been doing, there isn't a committee anymore.

Josh: Did you know that you're awfully good at what you do?

Beth: [*Graciously.*] Why thanks. [*Realizing.*] What do you mean?

Josh: Ever since you started thinking about changing the way you've been doing things you've done nothing but stand there and worry about what would happen if you did change.

Beth: I have?

Josh: You see, you're so used to doing it that you don't even realize it.

Beth: I can't believe it. Now what do I do. I mean I'm so used to being the way that I am I'm just not sure that I can change. How do I change? Do you think that I can do it? Or should I just give up now and go on being the way that I am?

Josh: Quit worrying about it. Just put it in God's hands. He can change you. I'd be willing to help you learn how to trust God to change you, if you'd like. It'll probably take some time, though.

Beth: [*Having decided.*] Would you...I mean, are you sure that you would be willing to do that...for me?

Josh: Sure. I'd be more than happy to.

Beth: [*The reluctance comes back.*] But that goes against anything that our committee stands for.

Josh: [*Standing, holding the Bible out to her, and indicating his seat.*] Do you want to stick with the teachings of the committee, or do you want know what the Bible says about being joyful instead of worrying?

Beth: [*Deciding. There is an obvious choice between the committee notes she is holding and the Bible that Josh is holding out to her.*] Well... [*Having decided.*] Yes. Yes, I would.

[*Josh hands her the Bible. Beth hands him the folder she has been holding. Josh looks through it for the names of the others on the committee, saves that page and throws the rest of the folder into the trash can. Hopefully it hits the bottom with an audible thump. Beth sits and begins to look for the answer, hesitantly at first, then digging in. Josh smiles, looks at the page he saved and heads off in search of the other committee members.*]

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