

Heart and Soul

The Teenager

By

James E. Bogoniewski, Jr.

Theme:

This monologue is the first in a series of five monologues which convey the different stresses that women of various ages experience throughout life. This monologue presents the viewpoint of a young teenager as she prepares for life. She stresses the lessons that she has learned to date. Namely, that you should live your life without being bitter about the things going on around you. She has learned that the Lord is there to guide you through your life, that He comforts you in your time of need, and that He's all you need.

Biblical Reference:

Psalm 23

Approximate Running Time:

10 minutes

Notes:

The actors in this series of monologues are wearing hats that signify the different stages of their lives. The teenager is wearing a beanie.

Scene:

There is a stool at center stage. The teenager enters, sits on the stool, and begins to tell her story.

I have to tell you, like, it's not easy being my age! You can't imagine what it's like to be a teenager in this world today. Especially if you're old, like more than 20, 'cause I know this girl in college, she's 20, but she understands what it's like to be my age. If you're older than that, you can't understand what it's like to be my age, 'cause it's been so long since you've been where I am, you know? No one understands you, no one cares about you, like, there isn't anyone to talk to, unless you've got a really close friend, but you can't really trust her 'cause, like, she might stab you in the back or somethin' and that's not good. Sometimes you wish you could just run away and start over again so that things could go the way you want them to, but that's really hard to do, and I would never do something like that. That's like a major mistake, I mean, I know that, but sometimes I just want to get away from everything.

It is really tough. Like, my parents don't like a lot of the things that I'm doin', but that's just because they don't understand me, you know. They look at me and say that I'm not like them and they tell me I gott'a change. I don't want to be like them, I want to be like me, you know. Every time I try to do something different my Dad's there to tell me, [*Imitating her Dad*] "That's not how I would have done that. You may want to rethink that decision." Like, if I didn't want to do things that way, I wouldn't have chosen to do it that way. Do my parents understand that? No. Then I'm really stuck. If I do things the way I want to do them, you know, then I know my mom and my dad's not gonna like it and they'll put me on this guilt trip, you know, like for the rest of my life. It's just not worth it, you know, so I give in, but I don't like doin' it.

You have no idea how hard school is. Like, no matter where I turn there are people telling me I'm doin' things wrong. That's hard, you know. How would you like bein' told you're no good at nothin' every time you try to do somethin' right? You wouldn't like it either, would you. No way! How do you think I feel when I work really hard to learn things at school and then I come home and get yelled at because I'm not doing as good as they think I should? You wouldn't like it either.

If I'm not gettin' into trouble over school, like, my parents are always on my back 'cause of my friends. They just don't understand that we just like doin' things for the fun of it. Like, there's this "clueless" thing that's goin' around now, especially with the kids at school. My friends and I aren't like really into it, but we do like saying, "Whatever," and "Loser," and [*and whatever else you'd like to add*], but we're just doin' it for fun. My mom says it's disrespectful, but we're not doin' it to be disrespectful, or anything like that. We're just doin' it because we think it's fun. I don't think I should be gettin' into trouble just because me and my friends talk different than my parents. It's just not fair.


I just wish people would treat me the same way that they want me to treat them, you know, like it says in the Bible. Do they want me to yell at them when they try really hard and still can't do it? No! Do they want me to tell them that they're friends are weird? No! Do they want me to treat them as if they don't know anything about anything? No! So, why do they do that to me? I just don't get it.

Oh well, my youth group leader, by the way, like, he's really cool, he cares about me, he listen to me, and stuff like that. Anyway, he tells me that I shouldn't get bitter about stuff like this. He says that worse things happened to Jesus and he didn't get bitter. He says that I should look to the Bible for the ways to react to things that are happenin' to me. And you know what? He's right. Whenever I feel as if no one cares, I just open the Bible and begin to read, like the psalms. God speaks to me through the writings of David, 'cause David's been where I am. He knows how I feel, and he loved God. When I read the psalms I realize, like, that things aren't really that bad, and if I just put up with the things that my parents or my friends are buggin' me with for a little longer all of a sudden they don't become as important to me anymore. When I let go of it, like, when I let go of the frustration that I feel, like, when I let go of the bitterness, I feel this peace come over me and I feel much better about everything.

Psalms 23 is my favorite. It's great to know that the Lord is there to guide me when I'm feeling bitter and mad at everyone around me, like, for the things that they've done for me. I just say the words of that psalm over and over in my head and the Lord uses the words to, like, comfort me when I need to feel close to him.

So if you're dealing with people who just don't understand you, you know, I'd have to say the same thing that my youth pastor said, just turn to God, He'll minister to you, He'll change your perspective, and He'll help you let go of the bitterness. Like, I've been there, and I know what it's like, and I can say it really works. I don't know how I could do it without him.

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