

Hold On For Dear Life

By

James E. Bogoniewski, Jr.

Theme:

This play attempts to show how we don't need to be perfect in order to be Christians. I use a new convert, Butch, to emphasize how we all make mistakes. I also attempt to express that we need to pull together as a body of believers in order to lift one another up when we need the encouragement.

Biblical Reference:

Matthew 14:22-33

Approximate Running Time:

15 minutes

Props:

A box of popsicle sticks.

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:

The play opens as Chris, Paul, and Peter are standing at center stage. Teacher enters excitedly.

Teacher: Hey you guys, come on over here quick. I have something to show you.
[*The four of them look backstage.*]

Peter: I never thought that you could do it.

Paul: I didn't think that it was humanly possible.

Chris: I can't believe that they would all stay together.

Teacher: Well, the glue isn't dry yet, but I did it. I built a full scale, life sized replica of the Santa Maria.

Peter: It's not quite as big as the ark, is it?

Paul: No, but there's always next year.

Teacher: That's a great idea.

Chris: I just hope that we won't have to make a ship like that during craft time.

Teacher: [*Yelling.*] Butch, honey, Butch, stay away from there. The glue isn't quite dry yet.
[*Running off stage and out the door.*]
B...U...T...C...H...D...O...N...'T.

[*Crash - as the box of popsicle sticks are dumped on the floor*]

Butch: [*running onto stage*] Did you guys see that?

Chris: Yes, unfortunately.

[*Teacher Can be heard sobbing off stage.*]

Peter: And we can hear it too.

Butch: I only wanted to check to see if there were any animals inside. I didn't mean to ruin it.

Paul: Did you hear what you just said.

Butch: What did I say?

Peter: You said that you didn't mean to wreck the boat.

Butch: [Grabbing Peter and holding him upside down.] Don't you dare tell anyone that I said that.

Chris: Put him down Butch. You have to realize that you have changed now that you are a Christian. You will have to become friendlier towards others. You shouldn't want to harm them anymore.

Butch: Really?

Peter: Really!

Chris: The Bible says that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Now that you are a Christian others will see a totally new person.

Butch: I don't know if I like the sound of that. Do you mean that I can't beat anyone up anymore?

Paul: I'm afraid that if you beat him up you wouldn't be acting very Christ like.

Peter: Uh, could you please put me down now?

Butch: I don't know.

Chris: This would be a good time to see how it feels to do something good for someone.

Butch: Oh, all right. [He puts Peter down.]

Chris: You don't have to worry about acting like a Christian. The Holy Spirit will lead you in the way that you should act, and if you have a hard time with becoming this 'different person,' well, we'll be here to help you through it.

Butch: What do you mean that you will be here to help me through it. Didn't I beat you up too?

Chris: Well, yes you did.

Butch: So why would you want to help me?

Paul: Because you are a new creature.

Butch: [Threatening Paul.] What do you mean by calling me a creature.

Chris: [Breaking it up.] I don't need another wrestling match.

Peter: Hey, I never did finish that the other day.

Chris: [pushing him backwards.] And you're not going to finish it today.

Paul: Okay Peter, I'll take you on again today.

Chris: [pushing him backwards.] I said that you're not going to finish it today.

Butch: I'll take you both on!

Peter: I'll take you on.

Butch: Right now.

Paul: You ain't got a chance.

Butch: [To Paul.] I'll take you with one hand tied behind my back.

Paul: You and what army.

Peter: I'd like to see you try it.

Paul: Yea, come on!


Butch: I don't care what you think!

Peter: Prove it!

[Peter, Paul, and Butch should each take turns moving towards each other as Chris pushes each backwards one at a time. As Chris pushes them backwards they should fall down on the ground and then get up and rush each other again. The scene should continue to escalate as Chris is quickly moving from one character to the other, pushing them away from themselves until he just stands there with both arms out and yells.]

Chris: Okay, that's enough. Just hold it right there!

- CURTAIN -



Scene II

Scene: Butch, Peter, Paul, and Chris should resume the positions that they were in as act one ended.

Chris: Just look at yourselves. Just look at what you are doing. Just look at what you are saying and tell me if you are acting Christ like.

[The three slowly look down at their feet in shame.]

Chris: Peter, are you acting Christ like?

Peter: *[Reluctantly.]* No.

Chris: Paul, are you acting Christ like?

Paul: No.

Chris: Butch, I know that you don't know any better, but are you acting as Christ would?

Butch: No.

Chris: *[Aside.]* Now I know how Christ felt whenever he had to explain things to his disciples over and over again because they just didn't get it. *[Back.]* Our goal as Christians is to act like Christ. Would Christ yell at others, would he be pushing and shoving and attempting to beat up his friends?

[All three say "no" together.]

Chris: Then why are you?

[All three say "I dunno'" together.]

Chris: Now I feel like I'm one of your parents.

Paul: I'm sorry, Chris. I don't know what came over me.

Peter: I'm sorry, too.

Butch: *[Reluctantly.]* Me too. Does this mean that I'm not really a Christian.

Chris: No, Butch, don't think that. We all make mistakes. Don't think that we will be able to act like Christ all the time. Do you remember the story of how Peter walked on the water? Did he walk right out to Jesus?

Peter: No, he hesitated.

Chris: Right. Did he make it all the way out to Jesus?

Paul: No, he began sinking.

Chris: And why did he start to sink?

Butch: Because he stopped believing?

Chris: That's right! If Peter was right there with Jesus and he still screwed up, do you expect us to be able to be perfect all of the time?

Paul: I guess not.

Chris: We have to remember that our goal is to be like Christ. There will be times that we can't do it, that's when we have to help each other out. Don't be afraid to ask me, or Peter, or Paul, or even Butch to help you through a situation. Sometimes talking with one of us will show you that God has been there all of the time but we have been looking in the wrong place. Now, I expect to see all of you here for Sunday school at 9:30 this Sunday morning. We can talk about this some more then, but I have to go home and take a shower. All of this fight breaking up has made me sweaty. I want to see you all apologize to each other before I go.

Paul: I'm sorry.

Peter: I'm sorry.

Butch: I'm sorry. [Pause.] Hey, do you guys want to come over to my house for some ice cream or something. I've never had friends over to my house. Actually I've never had friends to ask over to my house.

Paul: Yeah, that would be great!

Peter: Count me in.

Butch: Chris, how about you.

Chris: [Taking Butch by the arm.] Butch, I would love to.

[They all exit together.]

- CURTAIN -



Copyright © 1995 by James E. Bogoniewski Jr.