

I love You, Man

By

James E. Bogoniewski, Jr.

Theme:

I have used the "I love you man," quote from popular beer commercials to convey how God tries to take our sin from us even though we are not willing to give it to him.

Biblical References:

Hebrews 9:28

So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

1 John 3:5

But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.

Psalm 103:12

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Approximate Running Time:

5 minutes

Cast of Characters:

Bob: Bob is a man who is harboring a sin. He is confronted by the Lord and has to decide if he wants to keep harboring it or if he is willing to let the Lord take the sin away from him.

Lord: The Lord should appear to be a regular guy who is fishing along with Bob. He should appear compassionate and patient.

Notes:

This play has to have a nice slow, relaxed pace. The conversation needs to flow as it would between two people who are sitting alongside a lake with no place to go on a warm summer evening. Let the tension of the decision that Bob is making build until "it" is finally taken away.

The sin that Bob is harboring, and the throwing of the sin is to be imaginary.

Scene:

Lord enters and sits down next to Bob. They are sitting down on the edge of a dock at lakeside casually fishing or just looking out over the water on a beautiful summer evening.

Lord: It's a nice day, isn't it?

Bob: Yeah, I guess so.

Lord: The kind of a day that makes you glad to be alive.

Bob: [*Noncommittal. A bit sarcastic.*] Yeah, I guess so.

Lord: The kind of a day that makes you glad to be free from the cares of the world. Just sittin' out here on the end of a dock waitin' for the fish to bite [*or watchin' the sun go down*]. Yep. Free from the cares of the world.

Bob: Yeah, I wish.

Lord: You're not free from all of the cares of the world?

Bob: No way.

Lord: Do you know that you can be?

Bob: Yeah, right.

Lord: No, I mean it. I'm here to take all of your cares away.

Bob: Do what?

Lord: Take all of your cares away.

Bob: [*Pause. Thinking.*] I doubt you could do it.

Lord: I can do it...but you have to let it go before I can take it from you.

Bob: That's not easy.

Lord: I know.

[*Pause.*]

Bob: Besides, I'm not even sure if I want you to have it.

Lord: I know.

Bob: In fact, I'm not even sure if I can let it go.

[*Pause.*]

Lord: I know what you mean. I also know that you can do it if you try hard enough, but even if you feel that you can't do it I want you to know that I'll love you man - no matter what you choose.

[Pause.]

Bob: What if I decide to hold on to it?

Lord: I'll still love you man.

Bob: Even if I hold on to it?

Lord: Even if you hold on to it.

Bob: What if I decide to hold on to it and like, really enjoy it? Will you still love me then?

Lord: I'll still love you man.

[Pause.]

Bob: What would you think of me if I decided to hold on to it?

Lord: Well, of course, I won't be happy with your decision, but I'll still love you man.

Bob: Are you sure that you'll still love me?

Lord: Yes I'm sure. I'll always love you.

[Pause.]

Bob: What if I tell you that I don't want to let go of it.

Lord: I'll still love you man.

Bob: What if I tell you that I'd rather hold on to it and keep it close to myself rather than give it to you.

Lord: I'll still love you man.

Bob: Even if it means more to me than you do?

[Pause.]

Lord: Do you realize that you can't grow any closer to me as long as you hold on to it?

[Pause.]

Bob: [Decidedly.] Yes.

Lord: And you still want to hold on to it.

[Pause.]

Bob: [Decidedly.] Yes.

Lord: Don't you want to grow closer to me?

Bob: Yes, I do.

Lord: Buy you won't get rid of it so that I can come closer to you?

Bob: [Decidedly.] No.

Lord: I'll still love you, man.

Bob: [Surprised.] You will?

Lord: Yes I will. Don't think for a minute that I appreciate your decision to keep it from me, or to make it more important than I am, but I'll still be right here waiting for you to change your mind.

Bob: And you'll still love me?

Lord: I'll still love you, man.

[Long pause. We see the outward signs of Bob's inner struggle.]

Bob: I can't do it. I just can't do it.

Lord: You can't do what?

Bob: I can't hold on to it knowing that you're here watching me and waiting for me to let go of it. I can't hold on to it knowing that it's keeping me from you. I just can't choose it over you. It's just not worth it. Here. I want you to have it.

[Bob hands it to Lord. Lord reaches out to take it. The two sit looking out over the lake. Bob looks relieved to have gotten rid of it. Lord holds it as if it is fragile and is protecting it from harm. Long Pause.]

Bob: [Tentatively.] What are you going to do with it now that you have it?

Lord: You don't want it back, do you?

Bob: [With thought, then decidedly.] No.

Lord: Good. Now, watch this.

[Lord takes it and throws it over the water as far as he can possibly throw it. They both watch it fade away in the distance.]


Bob: Wow. As far as the East is from the West. [Noticing.] I can't tell you how much better I feel.

[*Bob turns to embrace Lord. They embrace.*]

Lord: I love you, man.

Bob: I love you, Lord. [*The word "Lord" is to be emphasized.*]

- CURTAIN -

A decorative flourish consisting of a horizontal line with a central, symmetrical, wavy design that resembles a stylized infinity symbol or a scrollwork element.

Copyright © 1996 by James E. Bogoniewski Jr.