

I'm Not the Only One

By

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Theme:

Every Christian has had one sin that has given them a difficult time at one time or another during their life. This play conveys that we all have difficulty with sin and how we can all go to the Lord for forgiveness.

Bible Reference:

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Cast of Characters

Bill: Bill is a strong Christian friend of Ted's. He should be older than Ted. It should be apparent to the audience that Bill has been down roads that Ted is just beginning to see on the horizon. Bill is more than willing to disciple Ted through the roads that he has been down.

Ted: Ted is a Christian with a good working knowledge of the Bible and the faith that he has in God. He is struggling with some sin in his life and he thinks that he is in trouble with God because of it. He is reaching out to Bill for some help.

Scene: Ted is sitting down in a restaurant at a table for two. Bill enters the restaurant and is looking around for Ted. Ted sees him and calls out to him.

Ted: [Calling out to Bill.] Hey Bill, over here.

Bill: Good morning Ted.

Ted: Thanks for meeting me for coffee this morning.

Bill: No problem. I don't mind a free breakfast once in a while.

Ted: [Laughing.] Yeah, well I guess that I don't mind buying you breakfast once in a while, either.

Bill: So, what are we having?

Ted: You can have anything that you'd like.

Bill: Great. I'll have pancakes. I just love pancakes.

Ted: That sounds good. I think that I'll have pancakes too.

[Pause. There is the general activity of getting ready to order. Ted is obviously uncomfortable.]

Bill: So, why did you want to have breakfast with me today?

Ted: Well, I really need to talk to you about something.

Bill: all right. You've got me right where you want me. I'm all ears.

Ted: [Avoiding the subject.] Would you like to talk first or eat first?

Bill: Can't you talk and eat at the same time?

Ted: [His point sounds lame.] My mother taught me never to talk with my mouth full. [Realizing it.] But I guess that, since she's not here, I could get the words out in-between those pancakes.

Bill: Well Ted, It's just the two of us. It's just us guys here. Think about it. We don't have our mothers or our wives here with us. Do we really care about dining etiquette?

Ted: No way.

Bill: Great. So we can talk anytime you'd like to begin.

[Pause. Ted is obviously reluctant to share what is on his heart.]

Bill: So, what do you want to talk about?

Ted: [Hesitant.] I'm, uh, well, I'm...[takes a deep breath] I'm really struggling with something.

Bill: I can tell.

Ted: You can tell?

Bill: Yeah, it shows. You don't have to be a famous detective or anything like that to notice that something is really bothering you.

Ted: I guess that I really need some help, but I'm not sure what I should do.

Bill: Well, do you want to keep beating around the bush, or do you want to tell me about it so that I can help you out?

Ted: If you want to know the truth, then I'd have to say that I'd really like to keep beating around the bush.

Bill: I know how you feel, but that really won't help either of us at all.

Ted: I know, I know. [*Taking a big breath.*] This is really hard for me.

Bill: I understand. Just take your time and remember that I'm your friend.

Ted: I'm having some trouble with sin in my life.

[*Pause.*]

Bill: That's it?

Ted: What do you mean "that's it?"

Bill: I thought that you were going to tell me that you were having an affair or something like that. [*Realizing what he said.*] That's not what you meant, is it?

Ted: No, I'm not having an affair. But I am caught in sin and I feel as if I can't get out of it.

Bill: Well, I don't want to know what it is that you are struggling with, so...

Ted: You don't? [*In disbelief.*]

Bill: No, I don't. [*Matter-of-factly.*]

Ted: Then how can you help me?

Bill: I don't have to know what kind of sin that you're caught in in order to help you out.

Ted: You don't?

Bill: No, I don't.

Ted: Why not?

Bill: Well, here, let me explain it to you this way. If it makes you feel any better, I'm caught up in some sin too.

Ted: Really. [*Not believing him.*] You're having trouble with sin too?

Bill: Yes, I have trouble with sin too. In fact, every man and woman on the face of the earth is having trouble with sin. I don't want you to think that it's no big deal, because it is - sin is what separates us from God, but I want you to realize that you're not the only one who is stuck in sin.

Ted: Yeah, but I doubt that your sin is as big as my sin.

Bill: Ted, all sin is equally bad in God's eyes.

Ted: Really?

Bill: Really. Would you agree that a simple little white lie and murder are both sins?

Ted: Yeah.

Bill: To us they are drastically different sins, but to God sin is sin. No matter what kind of sin you are involved in it is something that is separating you from God. He doesn't judge us on how big our sins are. He judges us on whether or not we sin.

Ted: But with our sinful nature, we really don't have the capability to be sinless, do we?

Bill: That's right, we don't. Only Jesus had the capability to be sinless.

Ted: And that's because He is God.

Bill: That's right. So, does it comfort you to know that we all sin?

Ted: In a way, but that doesn't help me get over the guilt that I am feeling over being caught in the same sin over and over again.

Bill: Well, I don't want you to tell me what sin it is that you're stuck in, because it doesn't really matter what it is. My response to you would be the same no matter what it is.

Ted: I don't understand why you don't want to know what kind of sin I am stuck in.

Bill: I think that when we tell others what kind of a sin it is that we're stuck in we make it sound as if we are victims of the sin. As if we don't have any control over what is happening to us. I want you to know that you're the victim of the same thing that we are all victim to - our sinful nature. If you weren't stuck in this particular sin that you're stuck in right now, then you'd probably be struggling with some other sin.

Ted: Really?

Bill: Sure. Everyone is struggling with sin. No matter what kind of sin that you're stuck in my response is the same: stop doing it.

Ted: That's it?

Bill: That's it.

Ted: I hope that you realize that that's not as easy as it sounds.

Bill: I know that it isn't, but I know that you can do it. I know that you can do it because you aren't alone. You have Christian friends who understand how it feels to be involved in activity that separates us from God. They know what you're going through. You also have the ability to call out to a loving God who desires to see you free yourself from the sin that you feel caught in.

Ted: But what do I do when you aren't around I just don't feel that close to God?

Bill: You move closer to Him.

Ted: Humph.

Bill: I think that we often stray from the Lord and then as soon as we realize that we have strayed we just stand there and wait for the Lord to "find" us. I think that we'd be much better off if we would turn back to the Lord and begin to seek Him as soon as we make the realization that we have sinned against Him.

Ted: That's a lot like what the Bible says about a sheep that has gone astray - the Lord is our shepherd. That sheep would be much better off if it would retrace its steps back to where it knows that the shepherd is rather than just stand there and hope that the shepherd finds it.

Bill: Unfortunately sheep aren't very bright animals. They wouldn't be able to make their way back to the shepherd. That's why the shepherd has to constantly watch over his flock of sheep. He needs to expect that his sheep will get themselves into trouble and he needs to be ready to help them out whenever he notices that one has gone astray.

Ted: So, let me see if I got all of this straight. You're saying that we're gonna' go astray no matter what we do, because we have a sinful nature.

Bill: That's right.

Ted: And all sin is equal in God's eyes.

Bill: That's right.

Ted: And God is there to help us get through it.

Bill: That's right.

Ted: So, as far as I can tell, we should shoot for as big a sin as we can get away with.

Bill: That's not right. [*Panicking. Afraid that he has failed.*]

Ted: I know, I know, I'm just kidding.

Bill: That's good. I think that we need to do our best to keep from sinning, but we also need to keep in mind that no matter how hard we try, we will fail.

Ted: Boy, do I know that from firsthand experience.

Bill: Yeah, me too. But isn't it great to know that God still loves us no matter how many times we sin against Him?

Ted: You know, that's one of the attributes of God that I'll never quite understand.

Bill: What do you mean? What attribute?

Ted: I know how easy it is for me to sin against God. What I can't comprehend is how He can bear to watch me sin against Him. He can see how wicked our hearts are. He knows how driven we are by what we are planning to do, and yet He is still there waiting for us to come to Him and ask for forgiveness.

Bill: Yeah. And He is there to forgive us time after time after time. No matter how many times that we sin against God, He is there to forgive us.

Ted: Man, I don't know what we would do without Him.

Bill: That's the truth.

Ted: Thanks a lot for your help today, Bill. You've helped me see the big picture.

Bill: It never does any good for us to spend time focusing in on how hopeless we feel when we fall into sin time after time. But it does help when someone outside of the situation can give us some advice.

Ted: Well, if you ask me, you sure did a good job of giving that impartial advice to me today. I really appreciate it.

Bill: No problem. Now, how about if we turn the conversation towards something we want to talk about?

Ted: What's that?

Bill: Sports.


Ted: I don't have a problem with that at all.

[*Conversation fades to CURTAIN.*]

Bill: Do you think that the 49ers can do it this year?

Ted: I don't know...

- CURTAIN -

A decorative flourish consisting of a central horizontal line with a small, symmetrical, ornate scrollwork design in the middle, extending outwards to the left and right.

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