

# JUBILEE : WE ARE SET FREE!

## (Dialogue Sample)

*(Organ music ,which has been serving as prelude, stops. FRED enters tentatively, hesitantly. He sits in one place, then another.)*

FRED

I shouldn't have come here.

*(beat)\**

I don't need God. I don't need church. Why did I come here?

*(beat)*

*(pointing toward audience)* Look at that couple. They've been here so long, they look like they've been carved right into the pew. They belong here, but I don't belong anywhere.

No one wants to sit by me. Do they think I'm a freak or something? Well, I'm not!

*(FRED sees MATTHEW and MARY who have entered and are looking for a seat.)*

Oh no, that couple's going to sit by me. Please don't sit here, please don't sit here . . . Don't talk to me! Don't look at me! . . . Oh, good.

*(MARY and MATTHEW sit elsewhere.)*

This place sure is filled with snobs. See if I care. I don't need them. I don't need anyone.

*(beat)*

Why did I come here?

*(MARY has noticed FRED.)*

MARY

I haven't seen him before. What's he doing here? As a leader in the church, I thought I knew everyone.

*(MATTHEW puts his arm up on the pew behind his wife. MARY nudges him away and scowls at him.)*

MARY

The rat! After he lost all our savings gambling, he has the nerve to come to church and act as if everything's alright. He ought to start praying every day. Like I do.

MATTHEW

Dear God . . . please . . . let the sermon be short so I don't miss the kick-off.

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\* The direction *(beat)* indicates a very short pause.

*(RITA comes down the aisle carrying a baby, an infant seat, diaper bag, bottles, etc. She looks around, embarrassed that everyone is staring at her. The baby is crying.)*

RITA

Sunshine, be quiet! Hush!

*(beat)*

*(RITA reaches a seat and prepares to sit. The baby is still crying.)*

Oh, sweet baby doll, oh hush. Oh my dear darling baby, hush . . .

*(The baby is louder still.)*

*(yelling)* Shut up or I'll throttle you!

*(RITA looks around, suddenly more embarrassed and sorry.)*

I'm a terrible mother. I hate myself.

*(RITA sits. WALLY hobbles down the aisle. He is holding a cane.)*

WALLY

I will never say I'm sorry.

*(beat)*

I don't care if they come crawling on their knees.

*(beat)*

I may have said some terrible things, but it's too late to change them now.

*(beat)*

After all, I've got my pride.

*(WALLY sits down. PASTOR steps forward and makes the sign of the cross.)*

PASTOR

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

CONGREGATION and WORSHIPERS

Amen.

PASTOR

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CONGREGATION and WORSHIPERS

Amen.

FRED

I wonder what that's supposed to mean.

PASTOR

In these words, we ask God, who knows us inside and out, to prepare our hearts for the confession of our sins.

FRED

Sins?

WALLY

*(looking around the sanctuary)* I see a lot of sinners here.

FRED

I'm not perfect, but I can't really say I have sin . . .

PASTOR

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(beat)* Please take a moment of silence for reflection and self-examination.

*(Segue to song, "Bound to Sin.")*