

Redemption

by

Upper House Players
Hope Christian Academy

An original play for stage by the Upper Learning
Center of Hope Christian Academy © 2013
Revised by Mr. Jeremy Howard

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INTRODUCTORY NARRATION

Our story opens at the home of David _____. He is a successful business man living in Pretoria. He works for a large corporation making 7 figures; a beautiful wife and three children. He owns cars and rental houses. He has everything he could ever want or need...or does he? You'll decide before the play is finished.

Let's go now to David's mansion. His wife, Alaina, is homeschooling their three children and you would think that everything is happiness and peace in the _____ mansion; well...that's what the neighbors think. Let's see.

DAVID

"These figures never seem to add up correctly...(mumbles to himself)...Dolores!! Where is that coffee?"

DOLORES

(apologetically)

Sorry, sorry, sir! The kettle boiled over! (Does a little dancing around and spills coffee on his lap)

DAVID

Dolores! What have I tol-Ah! now I'll have to buy another R600 shirt! NO, no, no...wait a minute. This is coming out of your pay!

DOLORES

But, but sir! Didn't you see the cat? It ran like drrrrrr through my feet and I did like a spin and a jump and I'm...I'm lucky I'm still alive.

DAVID

(angrily)

Yeah, you are lucky that you're still alive. Now get out of my sight!

ALAINA

David, you really shouldn't treat Dolores like that. She is a good woman and she works very hard for us.

DAVID

Well, if she was such a "good woman" then why does my shirt look like this? Well, I'm going to go see what George is up to. He's probably trimmed the roses wrong again. He can't seem to get anything right.

SAME SCENE

David goes out to the garden (just to the right side of the stage). He finds George on his knees working in the flower beds. HE gives him a quick kick in the backside.

DAVID

George, you worthless pile of garden equipment! Have you destroyed my roses again huh?

GEORGE

Sorry Sir. Roses, no sir. I mean, yes sir. I did as you asked and cut them off.

DAVID

What? I said cut THAT flower off. THAT ONE!! Did you see me waving my hands in all directions? "George, I hate all these flowers, they disgust me! Get them out of my sight!" Huh? Is that what I said?

GEORGE

Definitely not sir, I don't know what I was think-

DAVID

EXACTLY! George. You don't think. You have never have had a thought.

GEORGE

Okay then sir, I would like to take this opportunity to tender my resignation.

DAVID

I'm going to "tender" something else if don't get going. GO! (tries to kick him as he goes offstage)

David returns in the house saying "Goodbye George." As he enters. He calls to the maid.

DAVID

Dolores! Where are you with that new coffee? Dolores?!

ALAINA

David, she quit after you went outside. She just took her things and walked out.

DAVID

Great! You try to help these people and they throw it back in your face. Fine. I'll just call the employment agency.

He angrily dials some numbers on the phone and taps his foot impatiently while he waits.

DAVID

Hello! Yes, my name is David. I need a new gardner and maid yesterday if you know what I mean. What?

(pauses)

Yes, this is David _____.
Why?

(pauses)

What? What do you mean they won't work for me? A reputation? I should file a lawsuit for damages! You will hear from my lawyer.

He slams the phone down angrily and paces up and down. He turns to his wife and speaks.

DAVID

Well, that's it, Alaina. I guess it's time for you to iron out that old apron and dust off some of your domestic skills.

ALAINA

What? Me? I'm homeschooling the children and working with the church. How will I get everything done?

DAVID

Figure it out! Did you think your comfortable life came for free? It's about time you began to pull your weight around here. Which, I might add, is a lot more than when we were first married. Work on that too!

A student walks past with a sign that says "A few months later..."

Prompt: David has continued his destructive behavior. He never says a kind word to anyone and he has been trying to cheat his colleagues at work.

DAVID

You sent for me, sir?

BOSS

(wryly)

Sir? Are you sure you didn't mean to say, "Windbag? or Parasite?" I hear you have some pretty creative names for me in the break room.

DAVID

Who, me? No. That was um...um.

BOSS

Save your lies. You have told so many of them that you don't even remember them anymore. Get out. I'm not giving you severance pay. I will let you go without a court case if you go quietly. I know you have been stealing from the company.

David returns home; he is angry.

DAVID

Well. The job's gone, the debt is piling up and they are going to take the house now.

ALAINA

Really? Oh, I'm so sorry. What can we do?

DAVID

You? What can you do? As if you haven't been waiting for months to say, "I told you so!" You can get out of this house. You and the children. Go to your mother's or wherever, get out. I'm at least going to enjoy my last few days in the house in quite and doing whatever I want.

The curtain closes.

Prompt: As the curtain closes on this first Act, we have seen how things are not always as they appear to be. Sometimes those that we think have everything going well, are actually very miserable. David found that riches are fleeting and that no matter how big you build your mansion, it won't bring happiness or joy.

ACT 2 - DESCRIPTION

The curtain opens and David is lying on a park bench in a run-down area. A student walks past with a sign that says "6 months later..." A man walks by and kicks David awake and shouts at him.

SCRAPYARD OWNER

David! David! Wake up you worthless pile of scrap metal. Where is that copper you promised me? Huh?

DAVID

(looking tired and rubbing his eyes)

Um...who what...why did you wake me up? What copper are you talking about?

David goes to lay back down and _____ grabs his foot and forces him to sit up.

SCRAPYARD OWNER

The copper you promised would be in my yards on Monday. I have a man waiting on some copper that I promised because you said that a "Mr. E. S. Kom would like to donate a few kilograms worth.

DAVID

Alright! Just take it easy. I promised you the copper and I'll get it.

SCRAPYARD OWNER

Well, you had better!

DAVID

(says to himself)

Where am I going to steal some copper? (he sees a transformer and walks over and breaks it open)

He walks over to the scrapyard with the copper

DAVID

Well. Here it is as promised.

SCRAPYARD OWNER

(looks suspicious)

Well that was fast?

Don't ask too many questions. That's my motto. Thank you for your business.

David walks away and sits on a bench to rest.

DAVID

(speaks to himself)

I would have never thought it was so hard to open one of those things.

(counts his money)

Well, it was worth it at least.

The pastor walks by and sits down on the bench.

PASTOR

Hello sir. You look like you've had a rough day. Is everything fine?

DAVID

Yes, I guess. I just have been, um, working hard on something.

PASTOR

Really? What is your profession?

DAVID

I'm...an...electrician.
I...um...specialize in transformers and power outages.

PASTOR

(looks surprised)

Wow. Sounds dangerous. There must be a lot of people looking for you.

DAVID

What!? Where!?

PASTOR

No. I mean when there is a problem, there must be a lot of people looking for you.

David looks relieved.

DAVID

Oh. Yes. You have no idea just how much. What do you do?

PASTOR

I'm a pastor. I try to lead people to the truth.

DAVID

Oh right. You have all the answers don't you. Listen. That may work in your nice, fancy church, but out here in the streets, it doesn't fill up your belly.

PASTOR

Actually, I run the mission right down the street. There isn't much there, but if you ever need a hot meal or a cup of coffee or just a friend; our doors are always open. What did you say your name was again?

DAVID

I didn't say.

PASTOR

Well, Mr. I Didn't Say. It was a pleasure to meet you. God bless you sir.

The pastor gets up and forgets his bag beside the bench.

DAVID

This is my lucky day! First the copper and now a pastor's bag. This is going to be full of cash. Pastors are always asking people for money so they must be rich.

He begins pulling things out of the bag. There are some tracts. There is a simple sandwich. A thermos of coffee. And last he pulls out a Bible. He looks angry and kind of confused by what he finds in the bag.

DAVID

What!?! What is this? There is no money in this bag. Just this terrible sandwich, a bit of cold coffee and a...Bible. Well, at least I can pawn the bag and maybe the Bible.

David goes to a nearby pawn shop and tries to sell the bag and Bible.

DAVID

I have some new things I would like to sell.

PAWNSHOP OWNER

Oh really? The last time you just had a few old things to sell, they were your aunt's who had passed away five years ago, am I right?

DAVID

(looking nervous)

Yes...why?

PAWNSHOP OWNER

Well. Your aunt must have come back from the grave, standing about 1.9 metres tall and answering to the name of John. She wasn't very happy that you sold her things.

DAVID

I'm sorry. I can explain really.

PAWNSHOP OWNER

I am very sure you can make an explanation and it would be very creative, but you can keep it to yourself. I cannot trust you.

DAVID

Will you at least buy the Bible from me? Please, I need to eat and this is how I get my food. Please?

PAWNSHOP OWNER

No. Since your name is not the one I read here in the Bible, you can just leave my shop. You are bad luck to me. Maybe you should try reading it; it would do you good.

David walks away back to the bench in the middle and sits down.

DAVID

(says sarcastically to himself; mimicking the pawnshop owner)

"Maybe you should try reading it!"

What does she know. I'm a good person. Not the best I admit, but I have never killed anyone. I only stole a bit. I did chase my own family away, but it was a difficult time.

Maybe I should just read a little bit.

David takes out the sandwich and Bible from the pastor's bag and lays out the sandwich on the bench to eat. He takes out the Bible and begins to read.

DAVID

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son..."

ACT 3

Prompt: As the curtain opens on our final act, we see David has made a real change. He found Christ sitting on that park bench and found that He is real and a friend to sinners. His life completely changed, but it wasn't always easy. He had to go and make restitution to many people for all the things he had stolen and broken. He's going to see the pastor now. Let's see what the end of the story is.

PASTOR

It's great to see you again. How have you been?

DAVID

You remember me?

PASTOR

Of course, I remember you. You stole my bag that day we spoke.

DAVID

How did you know?

PASTOR

Well, I didn't walk far and when I looked back I saw you leave with my bag, but God told me just to leave it.

DAVID

I am very glad you listened to Him because it changed my life completely.

PASTOR

In what ways has it changed your life?

DAVID

Well, I gave my life to Christ and He forgave me of my sins. I suppose that is the biggest change, but also, I am back with my family, I have work and I started a book club with these old friends of mine.

PASTOR

A book club?

DAVID

That's right.

BOOK CLUB 1

We all lived on the streets together, stealing and doing whatever we could do for a bit of money.

BOOK CLUB 2

That's right. David here was just like the rest of us. We had no respect for the law or others as long as we got what we wanted.

PASTOR

So how did that all change?

BOOK CLUB 3

David made the change. He was gone for a while and when we saw him again, it was a completely new person. Nobody could believe at first that it was really David. When we saw that Christ could turn his life around; it gave us hope to turn our lives around.

PASTOR

That's wonderful. So what do you do then in this book club.

BOOK CLUB 2

Well, it is a way for us to grow spiritually. David first helped us get off the streets and then through this club, we all came to Christ.

BOOK CLUB 1

And now we invite other friends as well so that they also can be saved by what they read and discuss here.

PASTOR

That's wonderful. I'm so glad to hear that you are sharing your experience with others.

David turns to the club members to tell them goodbye.

DAVID

Thanks for coming again everybody. I will see you next week, Lord willing.

The three book club members walk away and just David and the pastor are standing there.

DAVID

Why don't you come over to the house for a cup of coffee?

PASTOR

That would be great thank you.

They enter the home and greet the family.

ALAINA

Welcome to our home. It is such a pleasure to have you here. I have been hoping to meet you someday.

PASTOR

Thank you, but I don't understand why.

ALAINA

Well, because God placed you and your bag in exactly the right place at the right time.

They sit down.

DAVID

Dolores. Would you mind bringing in some coffee, please?

DOLORES

Here it is.

DAVID

Thank you, Dolores. You are a great help.

Dolores leaves and the family sits there.

PASTOR

So, is it nice to be with your family again in time for Christmas?

DAVID

Yes, it is. This time I really know what the meaning of Christmas is.

ALAINA

It used to be just expensive gifts and stress, but this year we won't be able to have gifts, we are just thankful that the family is back together again.

PASTOR

I don't mean to pry, but it seems like you can afford it.

ALAINA

Well, we did get our nice house back and David's wonderful employer gave him another chance at his old position in the company, but we had to use the money he has made since being back for something else.

PASTOR

What's that?

DAVID

Restitution. I have spent the last several months paying back everything I had stolen or damaged.

(short pause)

So, no Christmas gifts, but a clear conscience.

PASTOR

David, it sounds to me like you found not only the true meaning of Christmas, but the true meaning of life.

(to the audience)

This Christmas season, our prayer is that each of us will know the true meaning of life...a relationship with Jesus Christ.