



OBEDIENCE

A READER'S THEATRE PRESENTATION FOR WORSHIP OR SPECIAL SERVICES

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S1

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth.

T1

And God was sorry that he made man and it caused him much grief in his heart.

S1

And the Lord said

B1

I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, for it repenteth me that I have made them.

S1

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

T1

Noah was just a man

B2

And perfect in his generations

A1

And Noah walked with God

T1, S1, B1

Noah walked with God

T1

Noah was just a man

S1

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord

A2

And the Lord said unto Noah

B1

“It’s going to rain. Build an ark!”

S1

And Noah replied ...

T1

But Lord, I am not a Shipwright!

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

No, no

T1

I am not a carpenter!

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

No, no

T1

I am not a zookeeper!

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

No, no

T1

I am not a sailor!

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

No, no

T1

I am not a craftsman

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

No, no

T1

I have no materials

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

No, no

T1

I have no tools

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

No, no

T1

I have no help

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

No, no

T1

I am unqualified

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

No, no

T1

I am unverified

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

No, no

T1

I am unlearned

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

No, no

T1

I am unavailable

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

Yeah, Yeah

S1, S2, A1, A2, T2, B1, B2

He is unavailable

T1

So true! You know, there are fields to be plowed; animals to tend; there's a leak in the roof and I have been trying to get a well dug. Not to mention wood to chop, cows to milk and fences to mend. The horse I lame and chickens; don't get me started on the chickens. And then there is the honey-do list that is longer than my arm. This just really isn't a good time, Lord.

'T2

And the Lord God said

BI

So be it!

A4

And Noah and his family perished in the flood with all the others.

(Long pause and everyone starts to exit)

S2

Wait. Hold on. That's not right.

B1

Of course it's right. It's right here in the script.

S2

But it didn't happen that way.

T2

What difference does it make? We read it the way we're supposed to. Our job is done.

S2

But you're letting A11 these people go away thinking that Noah failed... and he didn't.

A2

Well, what do you think happened?

S2

He did what God told him to do. He built the Ark.

B.1

That's not what the script says.

S2

Then the script is wrong.

S.1

Listen, deary, it may be wrong but it's A1 we got. So just clean up your litT1e mess there and we can go home.

T2

She's right. It's been a long day and none of us have time for this. Let's go.

(A1I mumB1e agreement except S2.and start to leave)

S2

Wait a minute! We have an oB1igation to set this right.

B2

I'm not oB1igated to nobody. I'm not being paid for this.

S2

Then why are you here?

B2

None of your business.

S2

A1right, what about the rest of you. Why are you here?

A1

Butt out, sister.

T1

Yeah, leave us A1one.

S2

I get it. You're not reA1 actors.

A2

Say what?

S2

Not one of you is a reA1 actor.

BI

Where did you ever get that idea?

S2

Why do you belong to a Christian drama team?

A1

Actors can be Christians

TI

And Christians can be actors.

S2

So why are you here.

B2

Oh, you want the old cliché' bit, right. God uses our talents to present his message to the world etc. and so on.

S2

Well?

SI

Well what?

S2

Is it true? Do all of you feel that your just acting out some kind of cliché'?

A2

Maybe. But what's it to you?

S2

God needs this artform and you want to turn it into some kind circus!

T2

Hey, this kid's serious.

S2

Of course I'm serious. Why aren't you?

BI

Hey, lighten up sweet cheeks.

S2

Don't cA1l me that and don't patronize me.

A1

Let's give her a break. Back up genT1emen. Let me tA1k to her. Ok, now let's get down to brass tacks. What exacT1y do you mean that I'm not a reA1 actress?

S1

Oh, brother.

B1

Ok, knock it off. Let's see if we can get to the bottom of this.

Now what exactly is bothering you? We have this Christian drama group and we're asked to come to this place tonight and read our scripts. We've done that. Why can't we just go home without making so much fuss.

S1

Because the script is wrong!

B1

So what! It's not our fault that it's wrong. We just do what we're told.

S1

But what if what you are doing is contrary to what God wants?

JJ1.

How can he not want it? We're IDS drama group.

S1

You're the leader. Did you even look at the script before we did it?

B1

Well, not exactly.

S1

Did you pray about it? Did any of you pray about it?

TI

We just assumed...

S1

You felt no obligation, knowing that you were representatives of God's word, to look at
or even
pray about this script?

A1

Well...

T1

Hey, wait a minute. Listen to this. She's trying to make us feel guilty.

I want to know, did she look at the script or pray about it?

Well ... not exactly.

T2

Then what's all this about? You're just as guilty as we are. So just get off your high horse.

B1

He's right. You shouldn't judge others without judging yourself.

A2

I can't believe we fell for it.

S1

She really had me going.

S2

No wait. I admit that I'm as guilty as everyone else but that still doesn't solve the problem.

B2

We don't have a problem.

T2

At least I don't

S2

Yes, you do. Everyone out here tonight is going to leave here thinking that Noah was disobedient and died with everyone else in the flood and it just is not true.

T1

How would you know?

S2

It's in the Bible.

B1

Well, it's in my script that he died with everyone else.

S2

Is that script more important to you than the Bible.

B1

When I'm on stage it is my Bible.

S1,T1

Amen.

A1

We're missing the boat here people. We were supposed to present a script on obedience with stories about different people and how they did or didn't obey God.

B1

Well, my script says that Noah did not obey God and died along with everyone else.

S1, T1

Amen

S1

A1 right then, look at the facts. Did Noah die in the flood?

A2, A1, B1, B2, T1, T2, S2

Yes!

S1

Did everyone else die in the flood?

A2, A1, B1, B2, T1, T2, S2

Yes!

S1

Then what are you all doing here? You were never born. Everyone died in the flood.

T1

She's got something there.

A1 (To B1)

Well?

B1

Well what?

A1

What have you got to say about that?

B1

Give me a minute. I wasn't expecting that!

T1

Why not, fearless leader?

B1

He's stumped, friends.

B1

A1right A1ready. OK. So the script is wrong. What do we do about it?

A1

Why don't we do it the way God wants it?

T2

You mean, tell the reA1 story?

S2

Let's do God's script. Let's obey God and his word!

III

Ok, group. Let's give it a shot.

\$2

NO!

BI

What's wrong now.

S2

If were going to do it, let's do it A11 the way. Not just give it a shot.

T2

Whafs in it for me?

A2

God loves you. Isn't that enough? If we're the Christians we say we are, we will do it because we want to obey the Lord. Not because we have to.

B1

You reA1ly know how to make me feel foolish.

~

Not intentionA1

BI

Ok, group, let's give it our BEST shot.

S~

Much better.

T1

Where do we start?

A2

And the Lord God said

B1

"Make me an Ark"

A1

Thus did Noah according to A11 that God commanded him, so did he.

S1

And when it began to rain, Noah and A11 his family did enter the ark.

S2

And two of every creature, mA1e and femA1e went into the ark

B2

And the Lord caused it to rain for forty days and forty nights.

_T1

And Noah only remained A1ive, and they that were with him in the ark.

n

And thus did the Lord deliver Noah, his family, and the creatures of
the earth from the flood of his judgement

S2

Now the Lord said unto Abram ...

B1

"Get thee out of thy country ...

T1

That was much better

B2

What?

T1

I thought that ending was much better.

\$1

We're in the middle of a new scene here.

T1

I know that. I just thought that A11 of you would like to know that

I thought that the new Noah ending was better.

That's so very nice. Now can we get on with Abraham?

T1

Sure. Didn't mean to stop you. Abraham it is!

82

'f

I don't believe this is happening! Now the Lor~~to Abram...

B1

"Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and from thy father's house into a land that I will shew thee.

T1

"Shew"

B1

Shew

T1

What is this "shew" thing.

82

It's just the way they spoke during the time of King James when this particular translation of the BiB1e occurred.

T1

But shew?

A2

It means show. Now let's move A1ong

T1

Then we should say show instead of shew. How many people out there are going to know what shew means?

B1

Fine! ... and from thy father's house into a land that I will show thee.

Ti

Much better. But can we say you instead to thee?

B1

A1right! Show you. There are you happy.

T.1

Quite.

Yes Lord

B1

What?

III

Yes Lord. It's my line. It's Abraham's response to God's command.

B1

Sorry. I'm just a little confused.

J,1

It's really quite simple. God told Abraham to go to a foreign country that he was going to show

him and Abraham agreed to go. He was being Obedient.

T2

And that's what this is all about. Obedience.

41£2

Amen

S2

So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken unto him.

I1

We've already covered that part. We know he was obedient.

s:

But it was my next line.

B1

OK, people. Let's bring it back together here.

S2

So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken unto him.

A1

Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah...

B1

"Arise, go to ~evah that great city, and cry against it."

(long pause)

c

B1

Whose got the next line?

T1

I do.

III

So, what are you waiting for.

T1

I'm not sure that I should say it.

III

What do you mean you're not sure you should say it.

T1

It's just going to create another argument.

B1

Say the line.

T1

But..

B1

Say the line!

T1

Nay, Lord.

B1

Say the line!

T1

Nay, Lord!

B1

I told you to say the line.

T1

I did say the line!

B1

I didn't hear it. Did any of you?

A1

Not me.

T1

Me either.

B1

Nope.

B1

Now say the line!

t:

Nay, Lord!

B1

Why not?

T1

Why not what?

B1

Why won't you say the line?

T1

I did say the line! The line is "Nay, Lord"

B1

I don't believe this ~

T1

Here, I'll show you. (fakes his script over to BI.) See.

B1

That's the line. Now why did you not want to say it.

T1

Remember the last time we had someone say no to the Lord? The name Noah ring any bells.

B1

But this really did happen this way.

T1

You mean that Jonah really did tell the Lord no?

Yes

T1

And lived to write about it?

BI

Just listen. Go on.

A1

And Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

E1

And the angel of the Lord appeared unto Moses in a ...

A2

Hey, what happened to Jonah.

B1

He said no!

A1

And nothing happened to him?

B1

We'll come back to Jonah. We're not through with him yet.

A2

A1right

S2

And the angel of the Lord appeared unto Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush.

(A1 & T2 begin whispering to each other)

B2

"I will send thee ... I mean you ... unto Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. "

B1

Hold it. What are you two whispering about.

A1

We just find it kind of funny.

Funny? How?

T1

Well, here's this bush in the middle of nowhere that's caught on fire and doesn't burn up and this guy Moses is talking to it.

B1

And?

A1

We just thought it was a little strange.

B1

Well., for your information the bush isn't burned up because God is speaking through the bush.

He used the bush to get Moses' attention. Now what do I have to do to get yours?

T1

We're finished,

III

Thank you. Continue.

S1

And Moses took his wife and his sons and he returned to the land of Egypt.

TI

Why?

B-I

'(

Do we have to tA1k about this now.

TI

I reA1ly want to know. I think they want to know, too. This guy Moses hears a voice from a bush in the wilderness and packs up his bags, wife, and kids and traipses off to Egypt where the rest of his people are being held captive like nothing strange is going on and nothing is going to happen to him.

BI

There's a lot more to the story.

T1

Moses knew that God was speaking from the bush and Moses was a man who listened to God.

He did what God told him and didn't worry about some person thousands of years in the future wondering why he was talking to a bush. He lived in the moment.

B1

Good observation.

T1

But God doesn't talk to us like that.

A1

That's true. God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit and I'll bet that's covered a little later on in the script.

B1

Another good observation. Now can we move along?

T1

I'll be patient.

B1

Good for you. We all appreciate it.

T2

And the Lord called to Samuel

S2

And he answered

B1

Here am I

,dI

And the voice of the Lord cA1led unto Isaiah saying:

B1

Whom shA1I I send?

A1

And Isaiah replied:

T2

Here am I; send me!

.,42

And the Lord God cA1led unto Adam and said unto him

tu.

Where are you?

T1

~ I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked
and I hid myself

A2

Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden

T2

Hey, that isn't fair.

B1

What isn't fair?

T2

The Lord punished Adam for his disobedience but he didn't punish Jonah.

B1

We'll come back to Jonah. Like I said, we're not through with him yet and neither is God.

S1

And Jesus said unto Simon and Andrew

T2

Follow me and I will make you fishers of men,

SI

And they straight way left their nets and followed him.

(T1 starts to speak)

B1

Don't say it. Patience.

A1

And a certain scribe came and said unto him

S2

Master I will follow you wherever you go.

T1

And another disciple said to him

A2

Lord suffer me first to go and bury my father

n

But Jesus said unto him

T2

Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

41

'That's pretty callous.

B1

I knew you wouldn't let it alone

A2

Come on, the man only wanted to bury his father.

B1

It is believed that the man's father was not yet dead.

A2

Come on. He wanted to bury him. Why would he want to bury him if he weren't dead?

B1

We understand this passage to mean that the man wanted to remain with his earthly father until he was dead and buried instead of following the path that his heavenly father had laid out for him.

A2

How close was his father to death?

B2

The scriptures do not tell us.

A2

But it could have been real soon, huh?

T2

And it could have been years. The point here, is that you do what God tells you when God tells you and remember your priorities.

S2

As a Christian, your priority is your responsibility to God followed close by your responsibility to your family.

B2

But God must come first,

S1

A1ways.

A1

I think I understand.

A1

And Jesus said unto Simon Peter

T1

Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me more than these others

B2

Yea Lord

T1

Feed my Sheep

T1

And Jesus saw a man named Matthew and he said unto him

T2

Follow me

£1

And he arose and followed him

A1

And Jesus said to Simon Peter a second time

T2

Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me?

tu

Yea Lord, you know that I do.

T2

Feed my sheep.

-"

Behold, one came and said unto him

S2

Good Master, what good thing shA1I I do that I may have eternA1 life?

TI

If you will enter into life, keep the commandments.

S2

A1I these things have I kept from my youth up. What lack I yef!

TI

Go and sell those things that you own and give the money to the poor and you shA1I have treasure in heaven: then come and follow me

B2

I know, I know. He said yeah Lord. I'll follow you. etc. Is this leading somewhere?

A2

But when the young man heard what Jesus said he went away very sad for he was very rich.

B2

Wait. Hold it. He didn't follow Jesus?

B1

That's right.

B2

No fire and brimstone? No hail or terrible winds? He didn't fall into a ditch and drown on the way home? What gives?

B1

He didn't enter the book of life and there are no treasures or home for him in heaven.

B2

So?

B1

When he dies, he will not know the peace of heaven. He will die an eternal death outside the presence of God.

B2

I guess he didn't get off so light then, did he?

B1

So right.

A1

And Jesus said unto Peter the third time

T2

Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me?

III

Lord, you know A11 things, you know that I love you.

T2

Feed my sheep.

A1

Look, that's the third time we heard that and I don't remember Jesus ever owning any sheep.

B1

The sheep are God's people.

d1

Are they hungry?

B1

They are hungry for the word of God.

S2

I remember now. Somewhat later, after the Lord's Ascension

£1

Peter was cA1led before the council

A2

And the high priest asked him

B2

Did we not straiT1y command you that you should not teach in Jesus' name?

T2

And behold you have filled Jerusa1em with your doctrine.

S2

And Peter replied

B1

We ought to obey God rather than man!

A1

And Simon, son of Jonas, fed God's sheep

T1

Hey, this is A1l starting to make sense.

21

'j

SI

And Jonah

TI

A1right, back to the good part

SI

And Jonah

SA

Having survived a terriB1e storm at sea

I1

Having been thrown overboard by the crew

A1

Having been swA1lowed by a great fish

JJI

Having lived in same said great fish for three days

A1,

And finding the accommodations somewhat lacking

SI

Wisely decided to examine his position and reconsider his options.

BI

Some of us need a little push once in a while

A1

Out of the belly of hell he cried

51

And God listened

A1L

And God listened!

T2

I will keep my vow. Salvation is of the Lord!

TI

Oh, isn't this exciting. Here's Jonah stuck in the belly of a great fish and now he decides he's ready to preach. And just who in this fish's belly is ready to listen?

B2

And the Lord Spoke unto the fish

T2

And it vomited Jonah upon the dry land

T1

Ok. Who's going to listen to him?

A1

And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time saying

B1

Arise, go unto Ninevah, that great city and preach unto it the preaching that I bid you.

T1

Don't tell me that he still didn't go.

A1

So Jonah arose and went unto Ninevah according to the word of the Lord.

T1

Finally. Can you imagine that?

B1

It's hard to believe what it takes to convince some people to do the will of God.

T1

Why didn't God just use someone else?

B2

Have you ever considered that Jonah's situation and the request that God made of him may have been as much for Jonah as for the city of Ninevab.? God needed Jonah.

A2

God needs each and every one of us.

T2

As individuA1s.

S1

He numbers the hairs on our head.

B1

He gave us the Holy Spirit

T1

That's right, you said we'd get back to that

A2

And when they

SI

The aposT1es

A2

Had prayed

T2

The place was shaken where they were assembled together

S1

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost

B1

And they spoke the word of God with boldness.

S2

And Stephen

B2

A man full of faith, power, and the Holy Ghost

A2

Did great wonders and miracles among the people.

T2

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said

III.

Separate me Baranabas and Saul for the work I have called them to.

T1

So God really does speak to us through the Holy Spirit.

B2

It is God's way of keeping us in touch with his will.

A1

It is through our obedience that God accomplishes many of his
most difficult and spectacular tasks.

S1

~ God used Moses to part the Red Sea

T1

God used Adam to populate the earth

I.

J1

God used Peter to heal the sick and preach the gospel

S1

God used Paul to take his message to the gentiles.

B1

But they all had to say

;

AU

1

!

Yes, Lord

B1

When God called they said

AU·

Yes, Lord

B1

Jonah, arise and go

T1

Yes, Lord

B1

Moses, arise and go

JJI

Yes, Lord

B1

Matthew, Mark, John, Follow me

B1,£IA1

Yes Lord

B1

Peter, Feed my sheep

,

T2

Yes, Lord

BI

Feed my sheep

B2, III, AI, T2

Yes, Lord

BI

Feed my sheep

AU

Yes, Lord

BI

Rise up, follow me, go forth and feed my sheep

AU

Yes, Lord!