

Drama Ministry®

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COURTING (D)ANGER

by PAUL MALEY

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: A woman's prayer time is interrupted by a seductive visit by a familiar "friend".

DIRECTOR'S TIP: ANGER should be dressed sharply and is sly, slick, & seductive.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1M, 1F

THEME: Anger, Forgiveness, Prayer

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Mark 11:25

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Starter, Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

JEANNIE

ANGER

PROPS: Three signs: ANGER, HATRED, and BITTERNESS; a Bible; picnic basket; wine glass; bottle of mineral water

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Wireless microphones (optional)

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A living room

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com
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Lights up. JEANNIE, a young woman, sits on the sofa, “preparing” to pray. She starts to say something, stops, frowns, thinks a moment, then opens her Bible at random, closes her eyes, and sticks her finger on a passage. It is Mark 11:25.

JEANNIE: “When you stand praying (*stands, sheepishly*), forgive... if you have anything against anyone. (*thinks a moment*) So that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions.” (*closes her Bible, sits, thinks a moment*) Dear... dear God: No... (*very “piously”:*) Oh gracious Heavenly Father... (*sighs, thinks*) Lord, this has been... (*gets frustrated. Not a prayer:*) Oh, God.

ANGER enters. He is the embodiment of her unforgiving feelings. He wears three signs around his neck: the top, and only visible one, says ANGER in bright red letters. He carries a nice picnic basket.

ANGER: Good evening.

JEANNIE: (*sees him, isn't surprised. He's been here before*) Oh. Hi.

ANGER: Having trouble?

JEANNIE: Well...yes, as a matter of fact.

ANGER: Why don't you just relax? Forget about praying for a minute. You look like you need to talk.

JEANNIE: (*uncomfortable*) Well...I was going to talk to God.

ANGER: (*sets the picnic basket down*) Now, you don't need to do that. (*starts to massage her shoulders*) You're all tense! You need to relax.

JEANNIE: No, I'm fine. I really do think I need to pray.

ANGER: (*stops massaging*) Do what you want. (*sits*) Mind if I stay and listen?

JEANNIE: I'm really not sure I can pray with you here.

ANGER: (*thinks a moment to determine his next move. “Concerned”:*) Why? What's the matter?

JEANNIE: Look, I really just need to settle down and pray.

ANGER: Fine. (*gets up*) I can leave, just say the word. (*She hesitates, he switches back to “concerned”:*) Something is wrong, isn't it?

JEANNIE: No, I just thought I'd....you know.....talk to God about my day.

ANGER: (*sitting again, feeding her feelings*) Today was tough, wasn't it?

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JEANNIE: Yeah.

ANGER: A real bear?

JEANNIE: A regular grizzly.

ANGER: Today was a downright loser of a day.

JEANNIE: I'll say.

ANGER: Were you surprised?

JEANNIE: Surprised? Shocked is more like it.

ANGER: *(takes off his ANGER sign, puts it around her neck. He has a sign reading HATRED under it; he then starts digging in his picnic basket)* That was pretty shocking, wasn't it? Can you believe she did that?

JEANNIE: She's my best friend! She was. *(he hands her a wine glass)* I can't believe she'd lie to me like that. It just makes me want to... *(holds the stem of the glass as if to strangle it)*

ANGER: Careful.

JEANNIE: To strangle her! Or to take a large piece of earth-moving machinery and level her house with her in it!!!

ANGER: Good for you! *(pouring mineral water)* I brought your favorite.

JEANNIE: *(snapping out of her rage, sincerely pleased:)* Oh. Thank you. You're so thoughtful. *(drinks, thinks)* Oh....I don't know. I shouldn't feel this way, I guess.

ANGER: Hey, your best friend just betrayed you. It's ok to... *(he casually removes his HATRED sign and puts it on her. There is a sign reading BITTERNESS underneath it.)* ...hate her a little bit. I mean, that was a rotten thing to do, wasn't it?

JEANNIE: It was pretty rotten.

ANGER: It certainly was.

JEANNIE: I thought it was.

ANGER: I agree with you! I mean, who knows how many other times she's lied and you didn't find out? Think about that!

JEANNIE: That's right! I'll bet she's been lying to me all along!

ANGER: Don't you just hate people like that?

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JEANNIE: Yes! I can't believe I was ever friends with her! All she ever talks about is her boyfriend in Las Vegas. *(he slyly removes the BITTERNESS sign and puts that around her neck)* I've never seen any boyfriend in Vegas! No one's ever seen any boyfriend in Vegas. She doesn't even have a picture of him!

ANGER: No picture? Oh! Dead giveaway!

JEANNIE: It sure is.

ANGER: I agree.

JEANNIE: How could I have been so blind? I'll never trust anybody like that again.

ANGER: It isn't worth it. You only get hurt.

JEANNIE: I do.

ANGER: You sure do. Well, it's a good thing you found out when you did. Some people just can't be trusted. That's all there is to it.

He downs the rest of his water and starts to put away his glass. His job is done and he's proud of himself. She thinks a moment, looks at the sign, then at him.

JEANNIE: I can't believe this. This is terrible. Look at me! She's my best friend, and I'm ready to kill her.....This isn't right. *(starts taking off the signs)*

ANGER: Hey! You just said she can't be trusted.

JEANNIE: I didn't mean it. She really is my best friend.

ANGER: Hey, none of that.

JEANNIE: No, I'm sorry, but this isn't working out.

ANGER: I can't believe you're doing this.

JEANNIE: I have to forgive her.

ANGER: *(disgusted)* Why?

JEANNIE: Because she's my best friend.

ANGER: What about what she did to you? What about all the pain she caused you?

JEANNIE: That's beside the point. She's my friend. *(gives him the signs)*

ANGER: *(sneering, taking the signs)* Oh, well isn't that magnanimous of you? You're just

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gonna let her off the hook after all she's put you through? How can you do that?

JEANNIE: I can do it because it's been done for me. *(holding out her glass)* Do you want this back?

ANGER: Yeah.

JEANNIE: Here. *(throws the remaining water in his face)*

ANGER: *(ice cold)* Thanks. *(grabs the glass, gets his stuff together. She is ignoring him, and picks up her Bible)* Have fun praying. *(storms off)*

JEANNIE: I will. *(deep breath)* Whew! That was close.

She watches him leave. Then she exits with her Bible.

..... Lights down.

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PO Box 40387, Nashville, TN, 37204 · Phone: 1-866-859-7622 · Fax: 1-615-463-9139 · E-mail: service@DramaMinistry.com

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