

Calming Two Storms

by John Walsh

This drama requires a team of around ten people. Only four team members need to talk individually. They take turns giving the “narrator” part. The rest will be a part of “the village people” and “the elders”.

narrator:

The visiting mission director visited an African village. He attended a church service and was asked if he would tell the Scripture for that week. The building had a dirt floor and no outer walls. The people sat on the ground around the speaker. In their church, the Scripture was told, not read.

narrator:

Usually, the director did not like to be the one to tell the Scripture, because he felt local people needed to conduct the service. Still they insisted, so he told Mark 5 about the demon-possessed man in the tombs... (continue)

another narrator:

...the demons being allowed to go into 2000 pigs... (continue)

another narrator:

...the pigs drowning... (continue)

another narrator:

...and the village people asking Jesus to leave their coast.

narrator:

He could tell the people were shocked by this story.

member of the village people:

“Why did Jesus hate the villagers? He killed their pigs”

narrator:

The mission director was surprised with the question. He never thought about the pigs and the villagers before. The focus of the story was on the man being healed. But he answered the question.

“Jesus didn’t kill the pigs – the demons did.”

village people:

“Oh” — “Yes, yes, it was the demons.”

(village people talk among yourselves ... finally one says:)

“Didn’t Jesus know that the demons would kill the pigs?”

narrator:

At this point the director realized why they were so concerned about the pigs and villagers. All the families of that African village kept pigs. It was their source of food and commerce. They knew that in the story, one person did not own all of the pigs. One family owned 5 pigs and another family owned 10, and so on. They personally felt empathy for the villagers in the story.

narrator:

He knew he was in over his head. He had always condemned the villagers in the story for asking Jesus to leave. The church elders saw this, so they indicated they would take counsel together and answer the question.

(elders talk among yourselves ... finally one says:)

“Jesus knew the demons would kill the pigs. He is God. He knows all things.”

village people:

“Ah” — “Yes, yes, Jesus is God. He knows all things.”

(talk among yourselves ... finally one of you say:)

“Did Jesus pay the villagers for the pigs?”

(elders talk among yourselves ... finally one says:)

“No, Jesus did not pay the villagers for the pigs.”

village people:

“Oh” — “Oh, Jesus did not pay for the pigs. They’re just gone.”

narrator:

For the first time, the mission director saw what they were saying. The only way he could relate was to think of people in America going out to the parking lot after the Sunday morning service and finding that Jesus had destroyed all their cars.

village people talk among yourselves ... finally one says:

“Why did Jesus let this happen?”

narrator:

“Yes,” thought the director. “That is a good question.” Even he wanted the answer to that question. The elders went into council again. Finally, one of them spoke to the crowd.

member of the elders:

“You all know Crazy Sam?”

village people:

“Ah yes, we knew Crazy Sam.”

member of the elders

“How many of you would give one pig for Crazy Sam?”

village people (laughing)

“No one will give up a pig for Crazy Sam. He isn’t worth it.”

member of the elders:

“Here is the reason Jesus allowed the pigs to be killed.”

narrator:

All the villagers and the mission director listened intently.

member of the elders:

“Jesus was willing for 2000 pigs to die so that someone like Crazy Sam could go to heaven. Crazy Sam is worth more than all of your pigs.”

narrator:

The mission’s director and the entire village sat there in stunned silence.

narrator:

Finally, the entire village erupted in applause! They realized that if Crazy Sam was worth more than 2000 pigs, what must they be worth to God?

narrator:

That day, the village—and the mission director—came a bit closer to understanding God’s Great Love.