

youthESource Drama

To Tell a Tale

by Tawn Bueltmann

For Lent 2, Lectionary Series B, based on Mark 8:27-38

Focus: Scripture, like life, doesn't always seem to make sense. But if we look at God's Word as a whole, we see that God's answer is Jesus. It is "crazy love" that purchased and won us from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil... without any merit or worthiness in us.

Characters: A game show host and four contestants, two men and two women:

Joe King, host (or Jo King, hostess)

Ima Cold

Neill Down

Ben Dover

Iwanna Fortune

People are needed backstage or near the stage to make game show buzzer sounds and to applaud after introductions. Note: Because of the non-verbals, each person may want to highlight not only their lines, but also their actions.)

Setting: A game show studio. Characters wear large tagboard signs with their names on them. They should stand behind real or imaginary podiums.

Joe King: Hello! And welcome to another edition of "To Tell a Tale." I'm your host, Joe King! And now, let's meet our contestants. Hailing from Port Fort Richey, Florida.... Ima Cold! Welcome, Ima!

(Smattering of applause here and after each introduction.)

Ima Cold: (shivering) Thanks, Joe.

Joe King: And traveling all the way from Baker Lake, Nunavut (NOON-a-voot) in far northern Canada, it's Neill Down!

Neill Down: (kneeling and rising) Thanks, Joe. (Joe looks puzzled).

Joe: From Dover, Delaware, we have Ben Dover! (Ben Dover bends and bows with a flourish).

Joe: And last, but not least, from (insert name of your church's town here _____), Iwanna Fortune!

(Final applause)

Joe King: You all know how to play To Tell a Tale. It's the game of mixed up mumblings and crazy opposites. Confusion. I'll say the answer and you ask the question. Are you ready?

(Contestants nod, murmur yes, etc.)

Joe: Here we go. Ima Cold, you'll go first. The answer is: Iona Carr.

Ima Cold: (buzzes) Who wrote "Why Should I Walk?"

Ding, ding, ding, ding!

Joe: Correct! 2 points on the board for Ima Cold. Do you own a car, Ima?

Ima: Yes, Jack. I own a car. It's cold in Florida.

(Neill Downs holds out arms and makes an expression of astonishment.)

Joe: Yes, yes. And you must surely have read *Why Should I Walk?* by Iona Carr. Good book. Yes. Next... Our next contestant is Neill. Neill Down! (Neill Down kneels down; Joe looks confused) Neill, you're up next. Get it? Up? No need to kneel, Neill. Oh, I get it! Neill Down! (Neill Down kneels down again.) No, up, Neill! Up! You don't need to kneel down (Neill kneels) every time I say your name. (Joe looks exasperated.) Next question for Mr. Down.... Or rather, next answer! The answer is: Maine. Let me spell that for you, Neill. M-A-I-N-E.

Neill Down: (buzzes) Which is the only state whose name is just one syllable?

Ding, ding, ding, ding!

Joe: Correct! Maine is the only state whose name has only one syllable. 2 points for Neill. (Neill grins) Next up: Ben Dover! (Ben bends over) Ben, you live up near Maine. Have you ever seen a Maine moose?

Ben Dover: No, Jack, but I've seen a main street.

Jack: (confused) Ah! Well, let's continue the show. Ben Dover, ... (Ben bends over) (Joe becomes agitated) Not again! No need to bend over, Ben. (Ben nods)

Joe: Here's your answer, Ben. Horton.

Ben Dover: (buzz) Who said, "I meant what I said, and I said what I meant. An elephant's faithful, one hundred per cent!"

Ding, ding, ding, ding!

Joe: Wonderful! We're batting 100, people. Iwanna Fortune, can you continue the pattern?

Iwanna: I hope so, Joe King. I wanna fortune.

Joe: (Confused) Yes, Iwanna Fortune is your name.

Iwanna: Iwanna Fortune is my name and I wanna fortune is my game!

Joe: (guardedly) Umm... Yes. Miss Fortune. I mean.... Umm. Iwanna. (flustered) Oh, this is unfortunate. Iwanna. Your turn. Let's go on. Yes, we need to continue....

(Iwanna nods.)

Joe: The answer for you to give the question for is: "Someone who said... 'Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.'"

(Iwanna thinks hard... Makes the thinking pose, stares into space, taps forehead... shifts uneasily.)

Iwanna: Could you repeat the question, please?

Joe: Well, it's really the answer. But yes, I can repeat the answer. "Someone who said, 'Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.'"

Iwanna: I'm so confused.

Joe: It is confusing. Very confusing.

Iwanna: Save his life, but lose it. Lose his life for Somebody's sake and the Gospel's and save it. Oh, my. Joe, I need more time!

Buzzer buzzes.

Joe: I'm sorry Iwanna Fortune. You're out of time. The answer is Jesus.

Iwanna: I knew that. Jesus is always the answer.

Joe: Well, for the big things in life, yes. Let me read that whole quote from Mark 8 to you. It was Jesus who said, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

(Iwanna bows her head, dejected. Other contestants stand silently.)

Joe: Well, folks, that's all for today! Thanks for being part of the confusion... I mean.... Conversation... Umm. Thanks for coming! And see you next time on "To Tell a Tale!"

(Contestants gather and murmur, comforting Iwanna...)