

## **TITLE: QUIET PLEASE!**

### LOCATION/PROPS:

Bedroom: Nothing necessary. If you want to dress up the room, go for it.

### CHARACTERS:

Praying Man: A sincere man, under attack while trying to pray during a quiet time. Actor must have the ability to pray boldly and loudly. The part requires some improvisation. Any age.

Demon: Figure dressed in black. No horns, please. Actor must be able to create tension with his final, imposing speech. Any age.

SEEKERABILITY: Average, may have some impact on seeker audiences.

### INT. BEDROOM MORNING

PRAYING MAN awakens from a deep sleep. He yawns, stretches, shakes the drowsiness from his body and kneels down to pray.

#### PRAYING MAN

Dear Lord. Thank you for this morning...(continues praying - IMPROV)...

A DEMON enters, holding up a sign for the audience that reads "Demon." He leans over to the Praying Man's ear, whispering softly.

#### DEMON

You are getting very sleepy. Very sleepy. Your eyes are closing. You need your sleep. It's okay. You've worked hard. God understands that you get tired. He made you. So, good night. Good night.

Praying Man is asleep. Demon, satisfied, walks out. Praying Man wakes up and begins praying. Demon stops.

#### PRAYING MAN

Thank you Lord for keeping me focused on you...(continues praying, IMPROV).

Demon crosses to Praying Man and speaks into his ear.

DEMON

(laughing)

What did you think about that television show last night? Pretty funny, wasn't it? How about when that guy fell on his butt and dropped the cake. Was that comedy or what? Think about that for a little while.

Praying Man starts laughing loud, distracted by that thought. Demon feels successful and walks out. Praying Man shakes off the thoughts.

PRAYING MAN

Lord, I enjoyed that movie last night, but what's really important is you. You have done so much for me...(continues praying, IMPROV).

Demon takes a breath, growing flustered. He snaps his fingers, signifying a brilliant thought. He crosses and leans over to the Praying Man.

DEMON

You've had your eye on that Ferrari, haven't you? That's a nice car.

PRAYING MAN

Lord, I pray for that Ferrari. If it's your will.

As Demon describes it, Praying Man sits up in a chair and begins driving it in fantasy.

DEMON

You deserve a nice car like that. Sittin' back, cruisin' to some music. You need to be seen in that car. I think it'll help you be a good witness. God blesses those who love him.

Praying Man nods in agreement.

DEMON

What's holding you back? Go for it. God will give you every desire of your heart, but he can't do it unless you pick up the phone.

Praying Man stands and picks up a telephone and begins dialing. Demon takes a few steps out. Praying Man drops phone and returns to his knees.

PRAYING MAN

Lord, forgive me for being so materialistic! I only want what you want for me...(continues praying, IMRPOV).

Demon is losing his patience.

DEMON

Look, work really has busy for you recently. You have a lot going on there.

PRAYING MAN

Lord, I pray for work.

DEMON

In fact, have you seen your desk? It's piling up. Don't you think you should get to work early?

PRAYING MAN

Help me with my work, Lord!

DEMON

If you left now, that will give you a good two hour head start on your day. Think about it. Heck, you can pray in the car.

Praying Man stands and begins undressing.

DEMON

That's it. You can pray anytime. Go to work. That's it.

Demon exits. Praying Man stops again and falls to his knees.

MAN

Lord, what was I thinking? I need to pray before I do anything today. Forgive me, Lord! (continues praying, IMPROV)

Demon storms in, rushing to the Praying Man, screaming in his ear! But the Praying Man fights him, PRAYING LOUDLY as the Demon persists!

DEMON

He's not there, you despicable fool! You're all alone! He doesn't care! He has enough to worry about! Besides, he knows what you need, so why waste your time praying when you could be doin! Get off your knees and get out in the world! C'mon! You're wasting your time! Go! You think he listens to a sinner like you? He sees you checking out your secretary! He saw you at the office party! What was it? Five, six drinks? He knows you're not spending time with the wife and kids because you're working late! Face it, you really don't care do you anymore? Time for new thrills! GET UP! GET UP!

Demon storms out. Praying Man takes a breath, feeling the pressure lifted. He begins praying "in the Spirit" with a loud voice of victory concluding with a note of praise to God for His power and anointing.

PRAYING MAN

Amen.

THE END

## **THOUGHTS**

Everyone agrees prayer is hard. But, have you ever wondered why? What a simple task, to sit quietly and talk to God. What an awesome honor it is to step into the presence of God. How many of us would fall asleep or get distracted talking to the President of the United States face-to-face?

Ever wonder why prayer is so hard? Part of the reason is because prayer is a battle. We are shouting in the midst of war, trying to get our commander's attention. The enemy is all around.

The enemy's strategy to interrupt our prayer life must mean prayer is important enough to attack. If it's important enough to attack, it's important enough to engage in. It will be hard, but we must fight on.

## **THEMES**

PERSISTANCE, PRAYER, THE ENEMY, SUPERNATURAL