

Drama #3 – Peter’s Denial and Jesus’ trial.

(Mom is setting the dinner table – Katie is helping.)

M: Have you seen Brad since you got home from school? I haven’t seen him at all.

K: No. He’s usually home before me but not tonight.

M: I’m worried about him. I know he wanted to handle his problem with Billy Broomfield himself. But he could be hurt. I sure hope he’s okay.

K: Mom, you can’t protect us. Brad did the right thing in telling the teacher about Billy’s cheating. Brad’s friends will know that and stick by him. Didn’t Brad tell us that Greg promised to walk home with him tonight? He’ll be all right.

M: But he’s not home yet.

K: If you let him have a cell phone he could have called and let you know why he is late.

M: Oh, I don’t know what to do - maybe I should start calling his friends to see if they know where he is.
(Father (Bob) enters.)

M: Bob, Brad’s not home yet. Maybe you should go out to look for him?

F: Carrie, you know that we decided when someone is late for dinner that we would go ahead. Brad has come in late lots of other times and never with a very good reason for being late. He’s probably heading for a record on some video game and unwilling to push the pause button. He’ll be home. Let’s eat.

M: Katie, call Ryan – we’ll get started.

(Katie goes to find Ryan – Mother and father bring the food to the table – Katie and Ryan enter and the four are seated.)

R: Brad's off somewhere again, is he? What you let him get away with!

M: Let's pray.

ALL: Come Lord Jesus be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.

(Brad enters during prayer.)

M: Brad, where have you been? I've been worried about you.

B: *(looking like he is about to cry):* Billy and his friends wouldn't let me go. I told them I had to be home for supper. They just gave me another shove – and laughed. Jack said "Mrs. Warner's pet has to go home."

M: It's okay Brad. Are you all right?

B: Yeah.

K: What happened to Greg? Didn't he walk home with you?

B: Last night on the phone he said he would. But at school today – at noon – Billy started calling me mousy – the little rat. Squealer. The teacher's little pet – Mousy.

K: Didn't Greg stand up for you? He's your best friend.

B: At first he was kind of quiet – but then I saw him laughing with all the rest.

R: And I'll bet when school ended he disappeared.

B: Yep.

(Family freezes – Narrator enters.)

N: Brad thought he had a friend. Greg promised to stand beside Brad – but failed. Reminds me of another friend who promised Jesus, “Lord, I’m ready to go to prison with you and die with you.” Remember Peter?

(Soldiers are bringing Jesus before the Sanhedrin. Peter is following at a distance, stops to sit beside a fire. Others are there.)

(A female servant approaches D#1 (Peter), sees him – stares at him and then speaks)

FS: This man was with Jesus.

D#1: I don’t know him woman.

(Another approaches – looks at Jesus and speaks.)

P#2: You are one of them.

D#1: Not me!

P#3: It’s obvious that this man was with him. He’s a Galilean.

D#1: I don’t know what you are talking about.

(Rooster crows. Voice over speaker system says, “Peter, the rooster won’t crow tonight until you say three times that you don’t know me.” Peter looks at Jesus – Jesus looks at Peter. Peter leaves weeping.)

(Soldiers guarding Jesus make fun of him. Hit him from behind.)

S#1: Jesus the prophet – who hit you that time?

S#2: Or that time.

S#3: Prophet, schomfit.

(Soldiers continue insults.)

N: Let's return to our modern day family.

(Family still at table.)

M: Brad, I remember what it was like when I was going through chemotherapy after my surgery for breast cancer. Some of the women who I really thought I could count on disappeared.

F: Yeah, we thought they were friends for life, but right in the middle of our battle, they were gone.

M: I'll never forget the card I got from Mary years later, apologizing for not being there for me when I needed her. It was really hard to forgive – to trust her again as a friend.

B: I like Greg, but I'm sure mad at him. Maybe I'd have been laughing today if the roles had been reversed, but I don't think so. I don't have any friends.

F: We'll stand with you Brad.

B: You're family – you don't count. You have to like me.

(Phone rings. Katie answers.)

K: It's for you Brad. *(Covers receiver.)* I think it's Greg.

(Brad leaves with phone.)

M: You know, when Mary wrote that note one thing helped me forgive her. I remembered Jesus and Peter. I thought about how Peter failed Jesus and how Jesus did trust him again. I started over with Mary. I'm glad I did.

F: And I learned how important it is to stick with people when they are feeling alone. Since our experience with Mary and so many others I try a lot harder.

(Brad enters. Everyone stops and waits.)

B: That was Greg. He said he was sorry – wanted to know if I wanted to watch a video at his house tonight. I said okay.

F: Let's pray. Father in heaven, you know what it is like to see your son hurt. Guide me now. Help us all to know what we can do to help Brad.

K: Dear God, help us to be faithful to our friends.

M: Dear Jesus, thank you for your love for Peter and for us when we fail you. Help us to always be like you and keep us all safe in your care.

R: When I get angry keep me from hurting others. Thank you for the food and for all the fun I had today.

B: Thank you for my family and help me tomorrow.

All: Amen.