

ROLLIN

Oh, we hear a thing or two at the club. Besides, everyone saw Crandall, the manager of the Opera Company at church two weeks ago. He doesn't go to church to hear the preaching. In fact, I know other people who don't either, not when there's something better to hear.

RACHAEL

You are mistaken. I'm not going on the stage.

Rollin shakes his head.

ROLLIN

It's a great pity. You'd make a hit. Everybody is talking about your singing.

VIRGINIA

Whom do you mean by "everybody"?

ROLLIN

Whom? I mean all the people who hear Miss Winslow on Sundays. What other time do they hear her? It's a great pity, I say, that the general public outside of Raymond can't hear her voice.

RACHAEL

(sharply)

Let us talk about something else. Shall we?

MADAM PAGE

My Dear, Rollin never could pay an indirect compliment. He's like his father in that. But we are all curious to know something of your plans. We claim the right from old acquaintance, you know. Virginia has already told us of your Opera Company offer.

RACHAEL

I understand Madam Page, but I have decided not to take the opera offer. That is as far as I've gone at the present time.

MADAM PAGE

Do you mind giving us your reasons for not accepting this offer? It seems like such a wonderful opportunity for a young girl like yourself.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MADAM PAGE (CONT'D)

I have no reason other than a conviction that Jesus would do the same thing in my case.

VIRGINIA

Grandmother, you know we promised to make that the standard of our conduct for a year. We have not been able to arrive at our decisions very rapidly. The difficulty in knowing what Jesus would do has perplexed Rachael and me a good deal.

MADAM PAGE

Of course, I understand Reverend Maxwell's statement. It is perfectly impractical to put it into practice. I felt confident at the time that those who promised would find it impossible and abandon it as visionary and absurd. I have nothing to say about Miss Winslow's affairs, but I hope you have no foolish notions in this matter, Virginia.

VIRGINIA

I have a great many notions. Whether they are foolish or not depends upon my right understanding of what Jesus would do. As soon as I find out I shall do it.

ROLLIN

Excuse me, ladies, the conversation is getting beyond my depth. I shall retire to the library for a cigar.

Rollin stands, gives a formal bow and exits.

MADAM PAGE

I am older by several years than you, young ladies. What you have promised in a spirit of false emotion, I presume, is impossible to perform.

VIRGINIA

Excuse me, Grandmother, do you mean that it is not possible to act as our Lord would? Or do you mean that, if we try to, we shall offend the customs and prejudices of society?

MADAM PAGE

It is not required! It is not necessary! Besides, how can you act with any...

Madam Page turns to Rachael.

(CONTINUED)

MADAM PAGE (CONT'D)

What will your mother say to your decision? My Dear, is it not foolish? What do you expect to do with your voice anyway?

RACHAEL

I don't know what Mother will say, I haven't told her yet.

MADAM PAGE

Oh! You will see it in a different light after wiser thought of it. Or you will live to regret it.

RACHAEL

I don't believe that if I honestly do as Jesus would do that I shall live to regret it. Thank you for tea. I should be going home now. Good day, Madam Page, Virginia.

Rachael nods to each and exits.

Lights out.

12 EXTERIOR ON THE STREET

12

Rachael slowly walking home. Sings
"What Would Jesus Do?" At end of song
Rollin walks up behind her.

ROLLIN

Sorry to disturb your thoughts, Miss Winslow, but I happened to be going your way and had an idea you might not object. In fact, I've been walking here for a whole block and you haven't objected.

RACHAEL

I did not see you.

ROLLIN

I wouldn't mind that if you only thought of me once in a while... Do you ever think of me, Miss Winslow?

RACHAEL
(with a smile)

Oh, yes, quite often!

(CONTINUED)

ROLLIN

Are you thinking of me now?

RACHAEL

Yes. That is...yes...I am.

ROLLIN

What?

RACHAEL

Do you want me to be absolutely truthful with you Rollin?

ROLLIN

Of course.

RACHAEL

Then I was thinking that I wished you were not here.

Rollin bites lip and looks gloomy.

ROLLIN

Now look here, Rachael...you know how I feel about you. What makes you treat me so? You used to like me a little, you know.

RACHAEL

Did I? Of course, we used to get on very well as children. But we are older now.

Jasper enters. Jasper bows and tips his hat to Rachael as he passes by.

ROLLIN

I wish I was Jasper Chase. Maybe I would stand some chance then.

Rachael is embarrassed.

ROLLIN (CONT'D)

You know well enough, Rachael, how I feel toward you. Isn't there any hope? I could make you happy. I've loved you a good many years...

(CONTINUED)

RACHAEL
(laughs nervously)

Why, how old do you think I am?

ROLLIN

You know what I mean. And you have no right to laugh at me just because I want you to marry me.

RACHAEL

I'm not. But it is useless for you to speak, Rollin. It is impossible.

ROLLIN

Would...that is... do you think...if you gave me time I would...

RACHAEL
(firmly)

No!

ROLLIN

Miss Winslow, I ask you to be my wife. Is there any hope for me that you will ever consent?

RACHAEL

No, none in the least.

ROLLIN

Tell me just why. You can't hurt me more than you have already.

RACHAEL

Very well then, I do not and cannot love you because you have no purpose in life. What do you ever do to make the world better? You spend your time in club life, in amusements, in travel, in luxury. What is there in such a life to attract a woman?

ROLLIN
(laughs bitterly)

Not much, I guess. Still I don't know that I'm any worse than the rest of the men around me. I'm not so bad as some. I'm glad to know your reasons.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (3)

12

Rollin bows formally with his hat off.

Good day, Miss Winslow.

Rollin exits.

Lights out.

13 INTERIOR OF THE WINSLOW HOUSE

13

Mother is sitting in a chair doing embroidery. Rachael enters, pauses to muster up the courage to talk to her mother.

RACHAEL
(with determination)

Mother, I have decided not to join the Opera Company. I have a good reason for it.

They pause and look at each other

RACHAEL (CONT'D)

You know the promise I made in church, Mother?

MOTHER

Reverend Maxwell's promise?

RACHAEL

No, mine. You know what it was, don't you, Mother?

MOTHER

I suppose I do. But what has that to do with your decision in the Opera Company matter?

RACHAEL

It has everything to do with it. After prayerfully asking, "What would Jesus do?" I have been obliged to say that I do not believe He would, in my case, make that use of my voice.

MOTHER

Why? Is there anything wrong about such a career?

RACHAEL

No, I don't know that I can say there is.

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER

Do you presume to sit in judgment on other people who go out to sing in this way? Are you saying that they are doing what Jesus would not do?

RACHAEL

Mother, I wish you to understand me. I judge no one else. I condemn no other professional singer. I simply decided my own course. As I look at it, I have a conviction that Jesus would do something else.

MOTHER

What else?

RACHAEL

What? Something that will serve mankind where it most needs the service of a song. Mother, I have made up my mind to use my voice in some way so as to satisfy my own soul. I need to know that I am doing something better than pleasing just fashionable audiences, or making money, or even gratifying my own love of singing. I am going to do something that will satisfy me when I ask "What would Jesus do?". I am not, and cannot be satisfied, when I think of myself as a professional singer.

MOTHER

(angrily)

It is simply absurd! Rachael, you are a fanatic! What can you do?

RACHAEL

You know Mother, that you have taught me to think of a musical career always in the light of financial and social success. I have been unable, since I made my promise two weeks ago, to imagine Jesus joining an opera company.

MOTHER

What do you intend to do then? You have not answered my question.

RACHAEL

I shall continue to sing for the time being in church. I am pledged to sing there through the spring. During the week I am going to sing at the White Cross meetings, down in the Rectangle.

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER
(surprised and upset)

What!

Mother stands and walks towards
Rachael.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Rachael Winslow! Do you know what you are saying? Do you know what sort of people are down there in the slums?

RACHAEL

I know very well. That is the reason I am going. Reverend and Mrs. Gray have been working there several weeks. I learned only this morning that they want singers from the churches to help them in their tent meetings. It's in a part of the city where Christian work is most needed. I shall offer them my help.

RACHAEL (CONT'D)
(passionately)

Mother! I want to do something that will cost me something in the way of sacrifice. I know you will not understand me. But I am hungry to suffer for something. What have we done all our lives for the suffering side of Raymond? How much have we denied our own pleasure or given of ourselves to bless the place in which we live or imitate the life of our Saviour? Are we always to go on doing as society selfishly dictates, moving on its little narrow round of pleasures and entertainments, and never knowing the pain of things that cost?

MOTHER

Are you preaching at me?

RACHAEL

No, I am preaching at myself.

Lights out.

Reverend and Mrs. Gray, Reverend Maxwell, Rachael and Virginia are in the tent. A few people are seated in the audience.

MRS. GRAY

It looks like this will be a small tent meeting tonight.

REV. GRAY

Yes, I fear so.

REV. GRAY (CONT'D)

Well, let's begin.

Rachael walks to the pulpit.

All others sit in chairs behind the pulpit.

RACHAEL
(singing)

Where He leads me I will follow, Where He leads me I will follow,
Where He leads me I will follow, I'll go with Him, with Him, all the way!

Three Bums and Loreen enter from the back of the tent.

BUM 1
(sarcastically)

De tent's begginin to run over tonight. That's what the talent calls music, eh?

BUM 2

Who's de bloke?

LOREEN

De Fust Church parson. We've got de whole high tone swell outfit tonight.

BUM 1

Did you say Fust Church? Why, I know him. My landlord's got a front pew up there.

BUM 2
(laughs)

Front pew, eh? And he owns the saloon!
(All bums laugh together)

(CONTINUED)

MAXWELL

Sing something, Miss Winslow. They will listen to you.

RACHAEL

(singing)

Savior, I follow on, Guided by thee, seeing not yet the hand,
that leadeth me. Hushed be my heart and still, fear I no
further ill, only to meet Thy will, my will shall be.

As Rachael sings the Bums settle down
to listen. Everyone is quiet. Rollin is
standing in the background listening.

Lights out.

15 INTERIOR OF MAXWELL'S HOUSE

15

Maxwell is seated at his desk. Mary
enters with newspaper in hand.

MARY

Here's your paper Dear.

Mary sits with book.

MAXWELL

Thanks, Dear.

Maxwell looks at paper

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

MARY

Do you think that anyone can remove that horrible curse of
drunkenness?

MAXWELL

I have thought lately as never before of what Christians
might do to remove the saloons. Why don't we all act together
against it? What would Jesus do? Would He keep silent? Would
he vote to license these causes of crime and death?

MARY

Can you really answer that question?

(CONTINUED)

MAXWELL

I don't know. Suppose it is not popular to preach against license? The Christian people think all that can be done is to license the evil and so get the revenue from what they consider a necessary sin. Some Christians even own the property that the saloon stands on.

MARY

That's horrible!

MAXWELL

What would Jesus do?

Maxwell begins to look at the newspaper, while Mary reads.

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

Listen to this, Mary.

Reading from the paper.

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

The Moral Side of Political Questions. The editor of The Daily News has always advocated the principles of the political party presently in power and has heretofore discussed all political questions from the standpoint of belief in that party as opposed to other political organizations. Hereafter, to be perfectly honest with all our readers, the editor will present all political questions from the standpoint of right and wrong. The first question asked in this office about any political questions will be: Is this measure in accordance with the Spirit and teaching of Jesus as the author of the greatest standard of life known to man?

MARY

That will cause a lot more comment by Mr. Norman's subscribers. He will lose a large number over this editorial.

Maxwell continues looking at the paper.

MAXWELL

(shocked)

Mary, listen to this.

(CONTINUED)

This morning Alexander Powers, Superintendent of the L&T Railroad handed in his resignation. Giving as his reason the fact that certain proofs had fallen into his hands of the violation of the Interstate Commerce Law. Also, of the state law which has recently been framed to prevent and punish railroad pooling for the benefit of certain favored shippers. Mr. Powers states in his resignation that he can no longer consistently withhold the information he possesses against the Railroad. He has placed his evidence against the company in the hands of the Commission and it is now for them to take action upon it.

Maxwell drops the paper.

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

I must go and see Alexander. This is the result of his promise.

MARY

Do you think, Henry, that Jesus would have done as Mr. Powers has?

MAXWELL

Yes, I think He would. At any rate, Alexander has made his decision and each one of us who made the promise understands that he is not deciding Jesus' conduct for anyone else, only for himself.

MARY

What about his family? How will Mrs. Powers and Celia be likely to take it?

MAXWELL

Very hard, no doubt. That will be Alexander's cross in this matter. They will probably not understand his motive.

Maxwell and Mary sit in silence.
Alexander knocks on the door. Maxwell gets up and opens the door. They shake hands silently.

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

Alexander! I was on my way to see you. I'm glad you're here.

Alexander enters and sits down.

(CONTINUED)

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

What are you going to do?

ALEXANDER POWELL

You mean another position? I have no plans yet. I can go back to my old work as a telegraph operator. My family will not suffer except in a social way. There is another matter I wish you would see to and that is the work begun in the shops. So far as I know, the company will not object to that continuing on. But what I want you to do, Reverend Maxwell, is to see that my plan is carried out. You understand what it was in general. You made a very favorable impression on the men. Go down there as often as you can. See if Milton Wright would be interested in providing something for the furnishings and the expense of the reading tables. Will you do it?

MAXWELL

Yes, certainly I will.

ALEXANDER POWELL

Thank you Reverend.

Lights out.

16 EXTERIOR OF THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE

16

Maxwell talks aloud to himself while walking.

Norman's office is set up stage right

Milton's store set up stage left.

MAXWELL

What would Jesus do in my church? 1) Live in a simple and plain manner. 2) Show love for the common people and become personally involved in their lives. 3) speak fearlessly to the hypocrites in the church. 4) Preach against the saloon in Raymond.

Fred Morris enters.

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

Hello Fred.

(CONTINUED)

MAXWELL

What seems to be the problem?

FRED MORRIS

I suppose I ought not to trouble you with my case.

MAXWELL

Well, go ahead.

FRED MORRIS

Well, the fact is, I am out of a job. You know I've been doing reporter work on The Morning Sentinel since I graduated last year. Well, last Sunday, Mr. Burr asked me to go and get the details of that train robbery at the Junction and write the thing up for the extra edition that came out Monday Morning. I refused to go, and Mr. Burr gave me my dismissal. Now, do you think Jesus would have done as I did? I ask because the other fellows say I was a fool not to do the work. I want to feel that a Christian acts from motives that may seem strange to others, sometimes, but not foolish. Several of us in the young peoples group are trying to keep you pledge. What do you think?

MAXWELL

I think you kept your promise. Fred, I cannot believe Jesus would do newspaper reporting on Sunday, as you were asked to do.

FRED MORRIS

Thank you, Mr. Maxwell. I felt a little troubled, but the longer I think it over the better I feel.

MAXWELL

What are you going to do now, Fred?

FRED MORRIS

I don't know yet. I have thought some of going to Chicago or some other large city.

MAXWELL

Why don't you try the Daily News?

(CONTINUED)

FRED MORRIS
(dejectedly)

Oh, hello, Reverend Maxwell.

MAXWELL

What seems to be the problem?

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MAXWELL

Well, go ahead.

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MAXWELL

What are you going to do now, Fred?

FRED MORRIS

I don't know yet. I have thought some of going to Chicago or some other large city.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

MAXWELL

Why don't you try the Daily News?

FRED MORRIS

They have all the people they need. I hadn't thought of applying there.

MAXWELL

Why don't we go over to the News office now. I'll go in with you to see Mr. Norman.

17 INTERIOR OF THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE

17

Edward Norman is at his desk.

Maxwell and Fred enter.

MAXWELL

Edward, I'd like you to talk to Fred here. He just lost his job at the Sentinel, because he would not work on Sunday. He is looking for another job.

EDWARD NORMAN

I can give you a place on the Daily News. I want reporters who won't work on Sundays. And what is more, I am making plans for a special kind of reporting which I believe you can develop, because you are in sympathy with what Jesus would do.

Edward puts his arm around Fred's shoulder and they exit.

Maxwell enters Milton Wright's store.

18 INTERIOR OF THE WRIGHT'S SHOP

18

Maxwell enters shop. Looks around impressed.

MILTON WRIGHT

(cheerfully)

Good morning, Reverend!

(CONTINUED)

MAXWELL

Hello, Milton. How is your pledge going?

MILTON WRIGHT

There is no use to disguise the fact, Reverend Maxwell, that I have been compelled to revolutionize the entire method of my business since I made that promise. I have been doing a great many things during the last twenty years in this store that I know Jesus would not do. But that is a small item compared with the number of things I believe Jesus would do.

MAXWELL

What was the first change you made?

MILTON WRIGHT

Definitely, my thought is of my employees. I asked myself "What would Jesus do in relationship to my workers?". Would He try to establish some sort of personal relationship with them? I decided "yes". So I sent invitations to all of them and we had a meeting in the warehouse Tuesday night. I tried to talk with the men as I imagined Jesus might. It was hard work for I have not been in the habit of it. But I can hardly make you believe, Reverend Maxwell, the effect of that meeting on some of the men. I saw more than a dozen of them with tears on their faces.

Milton hands a piece of paper to Maxwell.

MILTON WRIGHT (CONT'D)

I have sketched out what seems to me like a program such as Jesus might do in a business like mine. I want you to tell me what you think of it.

MAXWELL

Reading from the paper.

What Jesus would probably do as a business man. 1) He would engage in the business for the purpose of glorifying God and not for the primary purpose of making money. 2) All money that might be made He would never regard as His own, but for the good of humanity. 3) His relationship with all of His employees would be the most loving and helpful, thinking of all of them in the light of souls to be saved. 4) He would never do a dishonest or questionable thing or try in any remotest way to get the advantage of anyone else in the same business.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

5) The principle of unselfishness and helpfulness in business would direct all its details. 6) Upon this principle He would shape the entire plan of His relationship to His employees, to the people who were His customers and to the general business world with which He was connected.

Do you believe that you can continue to make your business pay on these lines?

MILTON WRIGHT

I do. Intelligent unselfishness ought to be wiser than intelligent selfishness, don't you think? If the men who work as employees begin to feel a personal share in the profits of the business and, more than that, a personal love for themselves on the part of the firm, won't the result be more care, less waste, more diligence, and more faithfulness?

MAXWELL

Yes, I think so, but a good many other businessmen don't. I mean as a general rule. How about your relationship to the selfish world that is not trying to make money on Christian principles?

MILTON WRIGHT

That complicates my action, of course.

MAXWELL

Does your plan contemplate what is coming to be known as cooperation?

MILTON WRIGHT

Yes, it does. As I told you I am studying out my details carefully. I must have time to complete them.

MAXWELL

If you keep this up, Milton, you will be one of the most influential preachers in Raymond.

Maxwell hands the paper back to Milton.
Lights out.

INTERMISSION

INTERIOR OF REVEREND BRUCE'S OFFICE

REV. BRUCE

The meetings at the Rectangle had intensified with each night of Rachael's singing. It cannot be said that up to that Saturday night there was any appreciable lack of impurity or heavy drinking. The Rectangle would not have acknowledged that it was growing any better or that even the singing had softened its outward manner. It had too much local pride in being tough. But, in spite of itself, there was a yielding to a power it had never measured and did not know well enough to resist beforehand. Gradually, they had come to understand that Rev. Gray was talking these many weeks and giving his time and strength to give them a knowledge of a Saviour, all out of unselfish love for them. That night the great crowd was as quiet as any decorous audience ever was. The fringe of people around the tent was deeper and the saloons were practically empty. The Holy Spirit had come at last and Rev. Gray knew that one of the great prayers of his life was to be answered.

Lights out.

19 INTERIOR OF THE TENT AT THE RECTANGLE

19

RACHAEL
(singing)

Just as I am, without one plea. But that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Bum 1 comes forward and kneels. Maxwell bows down with Bum 1.

Bum 2 comes forward and Mrs. Gray kneels with him/her.

Loreen comes forward and Virginia leaves the piano and kneels with her.

Rollin, in full evening dress, comes forward in front of Rachael and kneels with Rev. Gray.

Rachael voice falters when she sees Rollin come forward.

(CONTINUED)

She then recomposes herself and continues singing.

RACHAEL (CONT'D)

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve. Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Lights out.

Rachael and Jasper arm in arm. Jasper goes to kiss Rachael. Rachael pulls back.

JASPER

Rachael, I never knew until tonight how much I loved you. Why should I try to conceal it any longer. You know I love you as my life.

RACHAEL

Why do you say this now? I cannot bear it...after what we have seen tonight.

JASPER
(surprised)

Why...what...I know there was a tent full of people, but they don't mean anything compared to you. Rachael! Do you not love me? Isn't my love for you as sacred as anything in all of life itself?

RACHAEL

I can't believe that all the time I was singing with all of my soul to touch the conscience of that tent full of sin, you were unmoved by it except to love me for myself.

JASPER

Now that I have spoken, I feel that I either misjudged you or the opportunity. I knew, or at least I thought I knew, that you had begun to care something for me.

RACHAEL

There was a time... I can't answer for that... you should not have spoken to me, now.

(CONTINUED)

JASPER
(disappointedly)

Some time...when I am more worthy?

RACHAEL

No, You had no right to speak after all that happened tonight. You should have respected the place where our thoughts should have been. I am sure I do not love you...not enough to give you my life.

Lights out.

21 INTERIOR OF THE FIRST CHURCH

21

Maxwell at the pulpit.

MAXWELL

I have never in the course of my ten years pastorate mentioned the saloon as something to be regarded in the light of an enemy. I am speaking freely now out of a deep conviction that Jesus would speak so. I am pleading with you all to remember the new life that has begun at the Rectangle. The regular election of city officers is near at hand. The question of relicensing of the saloon will be an issue in the election. Is not the most Christian thing we can do to act as citizens in this matter and fight the saloon at the polls, elect good men to the city offices and clean up the municipality. How much have our prayers helped to make Raymond better, while our votes and actions are really on the side of the enemies of Jesus? Would not Jesus do this? How much have we, the members of the First Church, ever suffered in an attempt to imitate Jesus? Is Christian discipleship a thing of conscience or simply of custom? Where does suffering come in? Say with me now, I want to do something that will cost me in the way of sacrifice. Come and suffer.

Maxwell stretches out his hand in appeal. Then bows his head to pray.

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to want to follow you. To truly know and want to suffer for you. In Jesus name, Amen.

All exit except for Maxwell and President Marsh.

(CONTINUED)