

Monologue for Level 3 (ages 14-17, Male or Female)

Upside-down Kingdom

By: Chuck Goodin

An arrogant Corps Cadet preaches about the many problems in the world then has a few surprising revelations.

Scripture themes: Isaiah 55:8-9, Luke 22:25-27

A teenager sits centerstage holding a Bible and some sermon notes.

Teen:

(waiting for the music to end, annoyed and anxious, muttering to self)

Ok ...ok.... Offertory-shomferty, come on! ...Enough already, we get it.

(suddenly jumping up, cutting off the pianist)

Ok, ok. Thank you, thank you, Ms. Doris for that offertory.

(raising hand to halt)

No-no, no need for the Doxology today. This is Corps Cadet Sunday and we have to keep moving. I have a lot of preaching to do before lunch. That's right, I have some important things to say and just because I'm young, don't think that I will be easy on you. So, just sit back and get ready to learn something.

(opening Bible)

The Bible says in Isaiah chapter 55, verses 8 and 9: "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

Your thoughts are not God's thoughts. Do you hear that? That means, what you think is normal, or right, is probably not normal or right for God.

(sternly)

Now, when I read a passage like this where God is telling us—very plainly I might add, that our ways are not His ways, then I have to wonder, with all the problems in the world, why does everyone keep trying to do things their way over and over and not God's way? Shouldn't you just go back to the creator and ask Him how things are supposed to be? Is that so hard? *(growing in passion)*

I may be young, but the answer seems pretty clear to me. But, did you see the news today?

It's unbelievable all the things that are happening. Don't you think if the human race had the ability to fix all of these problems that they would have done that by now?

(very strongly)

Are you finally ready to start doing things God's way or not?

(flipping notes over, noticing something is missing, and then frantically searching for missing notes)

Uh, I seem to have left the rest of my notes on the printer at home.

(Looking around, scrambling, then with false confidence)

Well, that's alright. ...I know what I want to say ...where was I? Oh right. I was talking about how you guys do not do things God's way.

(thinking)

Ok, I admit, God's ways may seem odd because they are so different than our ways.

(remembering)

Like this one time in fourth grade,

(reliving and acting out parts of the story)

this guy named Eric kept torturing me during silent reading time. He wore these steel tipped cowboy boots and he would kick my shins under the table so no one could see. Every time I would protest or yell in pain the teacher would give ME detention! This went on for days. I started plotting how I would get him back. Like ...burn his boots or something. But I found out that God's way was not my way because the very next week I was in Sunday School and Ms. Doris was teaching about loving your enemies. It blew my mind. Love your enemies?! But I hate Eric Osbourne's guts! He is so mean. He deserves to be in detention --FOREVER!!!

(thinking)

But God says to love him.

(sheepishly, confessing)

To be honest, I couldn't bring myself to do that, ...so I just avoided him ...I never did burn his boots or anything like that, but I certainly didn't love him either.

(realizing)

Ok, ok, so doing things God's way is easier said than done.

(contemplating)

But Jesus did it. He did not assert his rights or fight back. I doubt he would have burnt Eric's boots. His way was definitely different.

(thinking)

In fact, Jesus even said, "I AM the way."

(again contemplating)

And get this, I was just reading that Jesus said if you want to be the greatest in His kingdom, then you need to be a servant to all. A servant! As in slave! Whoa!

I mean everyone wants to be great right? Who doesn't?

But our definition of great and God's definition are very different.

(dumfounded)

Did you know that Jesus even washed his disciples' feet? Dirty feet! That is kind of gross.

But He said to follow this example --to be like servants who wash other people's dirty feet. I just can't--

(thinking, beat)

Maybe that's the answer.

(looking to the audience for some help, not knowing what to say next)

I'm sorry for rambling, I wasn't planning to go into all this.

Believe me, this preaching thing is harder than it looks.

So... to summarize, in order to change the world you must be like Jesus and that looks like loving people who kick you in the shins and washing people's dirty feet. And that means...

(realizing)

...I have to be like Jesus.

(beat, looking around, convicted, not knowing what to say next, then honestly)

I'm sorry everyone, I don't think I should be the one preaching today.

Ms. Doris, can we have that Doxology now?

(exiting with head down)