

ACT IScene 1

Bailiff has already asked everyone to rise as the Honorable Judge enters. After Judge is seated does everyone else take their seats.

JUDGE

Good morning.

PROSECUTOR

Good morning, your honor.

JUDGE

Ms. _____ stands accused of being a Christian, which is a severe crime in the state of _____. I hope you understand how much contempt the religion of Christianity has for the state and county jurisdictions, especially in the capitol city of _____. Christians have turned the world upside down for too long now, and it's time that it stopped. You face a possible sentence of lifetime imprisonment. Very well, prosecution, you may proceed.

PROSECUTOR

Thank you, your honor. You've been under surveillance for some time now, _____. Surely you were aware that the government has been cracking down on Christians?

ACCUSED

Yes, but...

PROSECUTOR

Ms. _____, how long would you say you've been a Christian?

ACCUSED

As far back as I can remember. I've been going to church all my life.

PROSECUTOR

And what does going to church entail?

ACCUSED

Well, Sundays, we go to a worship service. And I'm a Sunday School teacher, so I teach a class. And then there's a community group on Tuesday nights. And Friday, they have a prayer night. Occasionally on Saturdays, I even clean the church.

PROSECUTOR

I see you're very active in church activities.
(Looks to judge)

Your honor, I submit these photos of the accused at various church events and worship services.

(hands them to judge, then looks back to the accused):

Could you describe a worship service for us?

ACCUSED

A worship service? Well, uh...it's where we sing songs of worship to God and the pastor comes and preaches a sermon from the Bible, then we pray, and have fellowship. I think that's it.

PROSECUTOR

And this is fairly typical for most all worships and activities in your church?

ACCUSED

Well, it's about Jesus. We learn about Jesus. We pray and worship Jesus. Jesus is what it's all about. And the Bible.

PROSECUTOR

Your honor, I also want to submit the accused's Bible and a collection of confiscated CDs and religious books. Notice the Bible is well-worn, with lots of highlights and underlines. Also included in this packet are some of the writings of the Accused. It appears that the accused writes her own poetry and journal. I submit it to the court as evidence of subversive literature.

ACCUSED

But your honor, it's not very good stuff, I mean, It's just some thoughts...I-

JUDGE

Thank you, Ms.____ I'll decide for myself.

PROSECUTOR

Well, Ms.____, you primarily attended a church called ____ in the ____ area?

ACCUSED

Y-y-y-es.

PROSECUTOR

And did you not speak publicly of God there, encouraging them to spread the gospel of this religion?

ACCUSED

I think I may have.

PROSECUTOR

Didn't you also participate in various gatherings and prayer meetings there? Even led an evangelistic outreach

once?

ACCUSED

I think I did. I did. But I mean, we did so much with so many people there and good things happened. It wasn't a bad thing. There wasn't anything illegal about it.

PROSECUTOR

Yes, but you do know that if you are convicted of being a real Christian, it is a severe and punishable crime.

ACCUSED

Yes, but...

PROSECUTOR

No further questions, your honor.

JUDGE

Thank you counsel. Does the State rest?

PROSECUTOR

Yes, your honor.

JUDGE

I'm tempted to take a short recess, but if you'll bear with me for one moment, I believe we will be able to proceed in short order.

((Judge flips through the papers, the Accused waits nervously, wringing hands and wiping sweat from brow.))

JUDGE

Will the Accused please rise?

([Accused stands])

After reviewing the materials presented against the Accused, I find it unnecessary to hear the defense. The State has failed to make its case. This court finds in favor of the Accused. You are free to go.

PROSECUTOR

Not guilty! That's not possible!

JUDGE

Counsel, do you wish to be held in contempt of my court?

PROSECUTOR

No...but I don't understand, your honor. Ms. _____ is a Christian. She goes to church, she reads the Bible. How could she not be guilty? What about all the evidence?

JUDGE

What evidence?

PROSECUTOR

"What about the poems and songs that she wrote?

JUDGE

They simply show that she thinks of herself as a poet, nothing more."

PROSECUTOR

But what about the services she spoke at, the times she wept in church, and the admission of being in prayer?"

JUDGE

Evidence that she is a speaker at best or actor at worst, nothing more. It is obvious that she deluded those around her, including you, counsel. Perhaps at times he even deluded herself. But foolishness like what you've presented today is a waste of this court's time. The crime of Christianity has not been proven.

ACCUSED

Your Honor, being a Christian can't be a bad thing! I've done nothing wrong! God loves us, God loves the world...(stop in silence)

JUDGE

([Looks over the top of his/her glasses and says,])

"Mr./Ms. [Accused], one crucial skill in a courtroom is to know when you've won, and to keep your mouth shut after that. You may want to keep that in mind. And in any case, your defense of Christianity is not necessary. This court of law is here to determine whether you are Christian or not. Jesus is not on trial, you, on the other hand, are. Congratulations. You are free to go.

ACCUSED

Th- thank you, your honor, I guess. If I may be so bold as to ask, is there really any evidence that can convict anyone of this crime in the State of Georgia?

(PROSECUTOR, WHO HAS BEEN GETTING READY TO LEAVE AND NOT PAYING MUCH ATTENTION UP TO THIS POINT AFTER THE ACCUSED STARTED ARGUING WITH THE JUDGE, PUTS A LASER FOCUS ON THE JUDGE, LISTENING INTENTLY)

JUDGE

Since you asked, and in the interest of keeping these frivolous prosecutions off my docket, I can tell you that this court is indifferent toward your Bible reading and church attendance; it has no concern for worship with words and a pen.

We have no interest in such dreamers who spend their

time secluding themselves in song and talk of a better world. We exist for those who would lay down that pen, and their life, in a Christ-like conspiracy of a new Kingdom.

You see, Ms.____, we already have a system of government within this Great State of _____, and only those who live as Christ and his followers did, challenge our traditions and systems and become a thorn in our side, only then do we consider Christianity a threat to the status quo. Until you decide you are willing to give your lives for your kingdom of God, you Ms. _____ and your friends at _____ are no enemy of ours.