

Break In

a play for church that is set in church

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The lights of the church are extinguished. Nothing happens for at least a few seconds. Then, from a direction unexpected, two men enter but cautiously. They look like the street thugs that they are. One is named Angel and the other is Ricky. In the background is the sound of a police siren.

Angel: We'll be OK here. They won't look in here.

Ricky: They won't see we broke open that door?

Angel: Didn't you close it?

Ricky: I closed it.

Angel: Then shut up.

By now the two men have reached the sanctuary.

Angel: What do you think this is?

Ricky: It's the altar, idiot.

Angel: What do they do with it?

Ricky: Nothing that makes a damn bit of difference.

Angel: How do you know so much about it?

Ricky: When I was a kid they made me come.

Angel: OK smart guy, what's that?

Ricky: That's where the guy who thinks he's better than everybody else stands and yells. And there's the chair for his big butt.

Angel: Screw these people.

Ricky: No kidding.

Now the two wander a bit around the sanctuary ending up back in front of the altar.

Angel: I think we should cool it here for while. And I'm a little tired anyway.

Ricky: That's cool.

Angel: Let's see what we can use to get comfortable.

Angel takes the cloth off the altar and lays down in the front pew. Moments later Ricky lays down in the pew on the other side of the aisle—no cloth. It becomes quiet.

After a little while, a light slowly but steadily illuminates the tabernacle. Once everyone has a chance to notice this light, a voice is heard from off "stage."

Jesus: Ricky..... Ricky.

Ricky pops up.

Jesus: Ricky.

Ricky looks at Angel. Then he gets up. He is scared.

Jesus: Ricky.

Ricky: *(in a whisper)* Who's that!?

Jesus: Don't you know?

Now Ricky tries to wake Angel but Angel doesn't wake up.

Jesus: Talk to me, Ricky.

Ricky: Who is it?!

Jesus: Ricky, you know who it is. You came to my house.

Ricky: What's going on here?!

Jesus: You came to my house. It's been a long time.

Ricky: Listen, man, I don't know what's going on here and I don't like getting jerked around.

Jesus: I'm not playing with you, Ricky. I care about you. I always have.

Now Ricky is looking around in all directions. Finally he notices the light on the tabernacle. He gets up, and stands in front of the altar (where a text of this dialog might have been placed). He says nothing.

Jesus: Please, Ricky, talk to me.

Now there are a few seconds of silence.

Ricky: How are you doing this?!

Jesus: Come on, Ricky, you know who it is, and you know that "how" is not the question.... I care about you. Talk to me.

There are a few more seconds of silence.

Ricky: You care about me?! You always cared about me?! Then where were you when I needed a father? Where were you when they turned off our lights? Where were you when I was getting beat up... and they found I couldn't read... and none of the "nice" people would even talk to me? Where were you then?

Jesus: I was there, Ricky. I felt it with you.

Ricky: Oh yeah? Well, why did I have to feel it at all?

Jesus: I know life is hard, Ricky. But, please understand, the Father didn't ask you to go through hard things to hurt you. You're going to be richer forever for all you've been through.

Ricky: What does THAT mean?

Jesus: It means, Ricky, that you were not made just to live here. What good would that be? Life here is short. You were made to live forever with our Father. And the things you go through get you ready. They help our Father to give you the best life that He can give you.

Ricky: What are you trying to sell me?

Jesus: I'm not trying to sell you, Ricky. Think about it. You EX-SIST! Where do you think you come from? You exist because the Father made you. And He did not make you for anything less than life with Him. And He would not ask you to go through anything He does not need so He could give you the greatest life that you could have.

Ricky: You know, this is just words to me. I've been treated like garbage all my life and now you tell me to be happy about it.

Jesus: I'm not telling you to be happy about the hard things you've been through. I couldn't. I know that it's been very hard, and that you haven't had much help. I know it's hard to be happy when all your life people have treated you like your not worth anything. But this is your moment to find out the truth. You're not worth nothing. You are the son of my Father and a brother to me. You are a part of our family like no one else, and no one can take your place.

Ricky: (*with contempt*) What does that mean?

Jesus: It means that you are already who you want to be—SOMEBODY. It means that nobody out there is worth more than you. It means that no one else is more beautiful in our Father's eyes than you. It means that you are already cool in your own way, and in heaven you will be able to show us stuff that we won't be able to see any place else. It means that our Father wants you to be happy He made you who you are.

Ricky: Well, I'm NOT. I got a life that sucks, and I've been all alone, when things happen no one gives a damn.

Jesus: I care, Ricky. And you've never been alone.

Ricky: You say that now but where you when....

Jesus: ...when you were beat on and mocked... when you felt like an idiot in school... when you sat there in that dark apartment watching all the happy people on television....

Ricky: ... so why didn't you give me a life like them?! Everybody has a better life than me!

Jesus: Not better, Ricky. Not better in the end. Not when you see what our Father is doing with your struggles. Not better. Different. And you will be so happy for the difference.

Ricky: Easy for you to say. You don't know.

Jesus: I think I DO know, Ricky. I know everything you've been through and I know how it felt.

Ricky: HOW do you know?

Jesus: How do I NOT, Ricky? I love you and I see what's happening.

Ricky: You say this now, but where have you been? And what about the garbage I took from (*pause*) lots of other people—people I can see!

Jesus: The people you can see are struggling just like you. They don't see the whole truth the way I do. They are always confused by their own pain and their own mistakes. They don't see your soul the way I do. Your soul is beautiful, especially when you put down the act.

Ricky: Because you say so.

Jesus: Because I SEE so.

Ricky: Prove it.

Jesus: Ricky, don't you remember learning anything about the cross?

Ricky: What is that to me?

Jesus: It was the most I could do, Ricky. For you and for your brothers and sisters in our family, and not just of today but also of yesterday and tomorrow. But the message is the same: I love you. I love you for who you are. And I understand everything you've been through. *(Ricky is given a chance to respond but he does not.)* Ricky, I know what it's like to be beat on and mocked. I know what it's like to fall and be embarrassed. I know what it is to feel totally alone. Please get the message, Ricky, if you don't I'm at a loss. I do not know what else to do; I took for you the cross.

Now there is more silence. Eventually Ricky's focus finds the church's main cross. After a few moments he goes over and stands before it. A few seconds later he finds a place to sit. Time goes by.

Now the lights of the church begin to come back on, beginning from the back. The light on the tabernacle begins to fade. Apparently it is morning. This wakes up Angel.

Angel: What are you doing?

Ricky: I'm thinking.

Angel: Think later; we have to get out of here.

Ricky: You go. I'm going to stick around. I think I need to talk to somebody.

To hear the song based on Jesus' last line, just go back to thefaithkit.org/panorama, click on "From Search to Church," and listen to "Enough."