

Ketchup Bottles—A Transformation - Mark 10:35-45

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*Feel free to use these skits in your parish and make any changes if necessary.

This skit is used at 2008 Assembly on Thursday @ 9:20am for the introduction of the special order—A People Called—to be passionate about our relationship with God, in Christ.

Ketchup Bottle 2 (KB2) is out of sight at the back ready to make a more pronounced entrance following the gospel. Ketchup Bottle 1 (KB1) moves slowly into position up front in the corner out of the way but not out of sight.

KB2 represents everything that KB1 used to be but isn't any more. KB2 is dynamic, energized and positive. KB1 is slow, static, and negative.

KB1 is the old institutional church that thinks it has all the answers and if you just come into its corner you will see Christ. KB2 is the same church (neither old nor new) who has a completely different posture. People don't come to serve themselves, KB2 is there TO serve.

The dialogue is quick little exchanges. It is meant to be light and fun at the same time speaking clearly about the perception of the church from two viewpoints.

KB2: *(struts in to the room with joyful confidence that God's walks every step with her)*

Life is good. Can you imagine being happier? Can you imagine being more free? I can't. Oh sure I might not look that impressive. I am, after all, just a ketchup bottle. But life is pretty darn good. I am ketchup!! I am here to add flavour to the world!! I go wherever people need me. I am called to go on hamburgers and hotdogs and French Fries. But I also get called to go to the most unlikely places. I've been poured on eggs, dipped with hors d'oeuvres, mixed into Kraft Dinner...why, I've even been baked in cake. That's right! I have been called to go just about everywhere—even where some people think I shouldn't be. But that's just what it means to be ketchup. It's not always easy but I would take a life with purpose over a life of ease any day. I value who I am and what I am about. Don't get me wrong. I don't Lord it over mustard or relish. But I am confident about who and what I have been called to be and do. Even if it means a little bit of pressure sometimes. If that's what it takes to serve the people I've been called to serve, I'm there.

(just then you catch a glimpse of the other ketchup bottle and you approach it with grace and love)

KB2: Hello?...Hello there...who are you?

KB1: Who does it look like!

KB2: I don't know I can't really tell. You're sort of stuck in the corner like you've been there a really long time.

KB1: *(cutting in)* You're darn right I've been here a long time. I've been in the lives of Lutherans for generations. You might say I'm an institution. I am ketchup. I'm and tried and true. I am stable, dependable. People know where to find me. I am always in the same

spot. You might remember Pastor Cossman? He always used me on his potatoes. Perhaps you remember the Bishop Huras? He always invited me to his BBQ's. If I was good enough for those big-name Lutherans than I am good enough for anyone. Yup, I'm an old favourite. You know what they say: no sense chang'n a good thing.

KB2: I agree. But how is anybody going to know how good you are way back there in the corner hidden beside grandma's can of cocoa and the leaky malassas. How about if I help you out a bit?

(at this point KB2 starts to move an invisible can of cocoa from one side of KB1)

KB1: Woooahhh!! What are you doing. Don't touch that. That's been there for years. Who are you to start moving things around like that. *(after moving the can over KB2 moves to the other side and starts moving the molasses. This is harder because it sprung a leak three years ago and has fused itself to the shelf. You are working hard at this while KB1 starts to move beyond agitation to freaking out a bit)*

KB2: And let's make a little room by getting this molasses out of the way. (grunts) Wow they're pretty jammed in here – they must been here for a long time!

KB1: Heeeyyyy!!! I'm really starting to get hot under the cap. If I wasn't in this bottle I'd be running all over the place right now. I am telling you right now. You'd better stop it. We have been positioned here for a reason and you have no right mess around with the proper order of things.

(just then you accidentally bump KB1 out of position because of working so hard to move the molasses and KB1 screams...)

KB1: Stop it, con-di-ment!!!!

(KB2 has finally moved the molasses and expresses satisfaction for a job well done. Now it's time to move KB1. This has to be a

spontaneous exchange as KB2 tries to turn KB1 out from the corner and around to face KB2 and the people. KB1 resists. Words are exchanged. KB1 is like the belidgerant two year old and KB2 is like the loving parent that has to use a little tough love to help KB2 see what they have been missing. Finally KB2 is turned around and is shocked. First for the wrong reasons and then for the right ones)

KB1: (inhale out of wonder) You are ketchup! I should have known. You want my seat of power. All this time you've been after my place in the cupboard. Why didn't I see this coming?

KB2: Okay...see...no! True power is not hiding in the cupboard in a well-placed position.

KB1: Yeah, yeah. You're just saying that because you don't have a place to sit like me.

KB2: Actually, you are right. I am accessible. I am out of the dark and into the streets. You can find me outside at the World's Oldest Ballpark here in London, at One London Place, at the soup kitchen, and even on the Thames. You can squeeze me, shake me, scoop me. I come in every size and shape. I am the kind of ketchup that serves others. My whole mission is to find a way to be with people.
(just then KB1 sees the participants and jumps out of shock and a little fear)

KB1: Look. There's people.

KB2: That's right.

KB1: Have they been here the whole time?

KB2: Yep.

KB1: Why haven't I seen them? I've been standing right here. It's not like I've been moving around. Why didn't they come and get me?

KB2: That's what I've been trying to tell you. Things are different now. We still have what the world needs but they're not coming to get it the way they used to. We have to find new ways to serve. We have to be in mission for others. Come on. Let's go outside. Are you okay to walk?

(KB2 pats KB1 on the shoulder and leads him down the aisle out the back)

KB1: I haven't felt this good in years. Wow. What a difference. What about this UV stuff I've been hearing about. Do we need to worry about drying up?

KB2: It's a risk we have to take. We are ketchup bottles after all. We have work to do.

(KB1 and KB2 exit and the service continues)