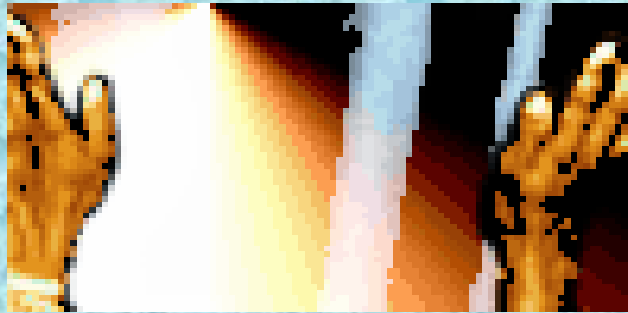


Breaking Free



Pamela R. Smith

BREAKING FREE
by Pamela R. Smith

THEME: Purpose

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 Chronicles 4

TIME: 10 minutes

GENRE: Drama

SUGGESTED USE: Great as a sermon enhancer, worship service, marriage or family conference or men's service.

SYNOPSIS: A man's struggle with acceptance, purpose and his relationship with God. Brennan, gifted and called but allows his past to hold him prison. His name means "a man of sorrow". God uses Brennan's wife, Pastor Jackson and opposition to help propel Brennan into his purpose.

SETTING: Courtroom.

PROPS: Court room setting: You can use a small desk or table for the judge. Two small tables (one for defense and one for prosecutor. Chairs for cast to be seated. Gavel for judge.

COSTUMES: Judge wears a robe. Prosecutor, Defense Attorney, Mr. Sawyer, Pastor Jackson, and Brennan all wear suits. Erica wears a nice skirt outfit or dress. Others in the courtroom dressed semi-casual or as appropriate. Bailiff dressed with security uniform.

CHARACTERS:

Brennan – **Pronounced:** BREN-an means tear drop, sorrow. (*on trial for assaulting his former boss*).

Erica – his wife

Pastor Jackson

Judge Murray

Attorney Brown (*Brennan's attorney*)

Prosecutor

Mr. Sawyer (*Brennan's former boss*)

Bailiff

Extras (*for courtroom*)

And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

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Setting: Courtroom, Judge is in his place, Bailiff is standing in the front, Mr. Sawyer is seated in the courtroom, the prosecutor is seated and Attorney Brown and Brennan are seated next to each other. Erica and Pastor David are seated behind Brennan. The judge is about to go and deliberate on the case.

Judge Murphy: *(speaks slowly and clearly)* Mr. Brennan Jackson, you understand that you have been charged with the crime of assault and battery against your former boss, Mr. Alton Sawyer. You pleaded not guilty under the grounds of self-defense. I have heard the case presented by the Prosecutor and your defense attorney, I'm going to take some time to go and deliberate and I'll be back with my decision. The court is in a brief recess *(hits the gavel on the desk, rises and exits)*.

Bailiff: All rise.

Others in Courtroom: *(rise – people start exiting)*.

Attorney Brown: You all want to grab some lunch?

Brennan: No, thanks. We'll just wait around here.

(Everyone exits except the pastor, Erica and Brennan.)

Brennan – *sits back down*

Erica: Baby, there is still hope. It doesn't have to end the way you are thinking *(sits next to Brennan)*.

Brennan: You don't understand, all my life, I've been told that I'm nothing, that I'll never be anything, that I'm destined for failure. Why prolong it?

Erica: Baby, that isn't true.

Brennan: My own mother named me Brennan. Do you know what it means?

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Erica: Sweetheart, sometimes what we think of as promotion is not promotion at all. You are looking at this in the natural.

Brennan: Well, I was put in jail in the *natural*.

Erica: Sometimes, God has been leading us down another path but we are too afraid to risk losing what we already have...

Pastor: Brennan have you considered that your boss missed *his* blessing? See, sometimes we look at things differently than God has purposed. Have you ever thought that you were put there for a reason but the company rejected purpose, not you? See, don't take it personal, it was *purpose* they rejected, not you. To Mr. Sawyer's own admission on the witness stand, you have written more software programs than anyone in that company. Their best selling software package is the one you wrote.

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Brennan: (*interrupting – talking to Pastor Jackson*) Pastor Jackson, no disrespect to you but I used to faithfully attend church and gave my all but it was the same ole stuff. Nothing changed; it was just a bunch of programs and words. When I looked around the sanctuary all I saw was a room full of bound people. I need more. I have to be free inside.

Pastor Jackson: Well, you can't be free on your own. The word of God says, "He who the Son makes free is free indeed." If you want to truly be free you *must* rededicate your life to the Lord and allow Him lead you. He alone can empower you to face not only your Mondays but everyday.

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Bailiff: *(enters toward the end of the prayer and stands to the side)*

Erica and Brennan: Amen.

Pastor: *(embraces Brennan)*

Bailiff: The judge is ready to reconvene. We have already contacted your attorney's office.

(Prosecutor, Mr. Sawyer, and a couple other people enter and take their seats)

Brennan: *(sits down)* Here we go.

Erica: *(encouraging smile)* Yes *(sits behind Brennan)*

Attorney Brown: *(comes rushing in with briefcase in hand and takes his seat next to Brennan – trying to reassure Brennan)* We're expecting the best outcome.

Brennan: *(more confident)* Yes, we are.

Attorney Brown: *(a little shocked)* Well, I guess you had a good lunch *(smiling)*.

Judge Murphy: *(enters and takes his seat)*

Bailiff: *(as judge enters)* All rise.

(Everyone rise and sits after the judge sits)

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