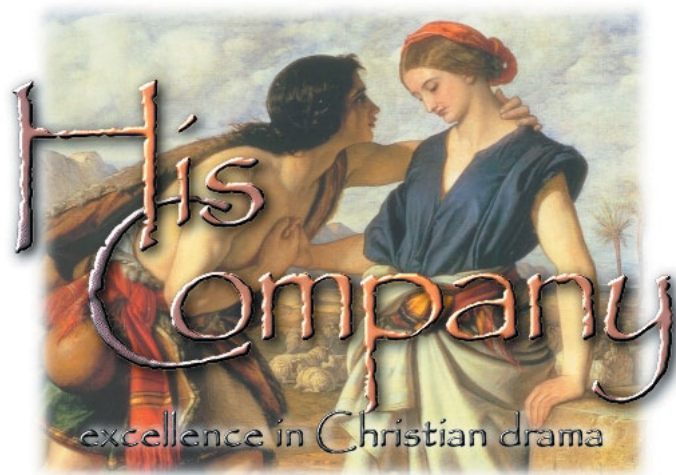


A PRACTICAL FAITH

FROM *THE TWELVE*

by
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AUTHOR'S NOTE

Sarah's grandchild could also be played by a boy. Just change the name to Micah.

SCENE

5

The Time: c. AD 59
The Place: Galilee

10

House lights down.
Stage lights up.

15

Enter Sarah, wife of Thomas, the late apostle. She is 74 years of age. As she reaches center stage, her granddaughter, Prisca, enters noisily. Sarah turns and stops Prisca with her words.

SARAH

(with a sigh)

What have you done, Prisca?

20

PRISCA

(defensively)

I didn't do anything. It was the other kids. They started it.

SARAH

(checking her over)

25

Hmmm... No black eye. No bloody nose. Must have been a battle of words.

PRISCA

They said some bad things—bad things about Grampa. And I was sticking up for him.

30

SARAH

Oh, I see. And what were they saying about your Grampa Thomas?

PRISCA

(reluctantly)

35

Th—they called him “doubting” Thomas, and that he didn’t deserve to be a disciple of our Lord because he didn’t believe when everyone else did.

SARAH

Oh really.

(pause)

40

Tell me, Prisca, do you remember the story of Jonah, the prophet to Ninevah, being swallowed by a great fish?

PRISCA

Sure!

SARAH

45

When you hear that story is there maybe a tiny part of you that doesn’t believe that a fish could really swallow a man—and then that man actually survive the belly of the fish?

PRISCA

(surprised)

I thought it was just a story.

50

SARAH

By the very word of God, it’s true.

(pause)

55

Now, let’s suppose you went visiting relatives for a few days, and when you came back you were told that your Gramma had died while you were gone—

PRISCA

Oh no, Gramma!

SARAH

(wearily)

60

Child, this one is just a story.

(pause)

Listen carefully. The same person to tell you of my death tells you that just three days after they sealed up my tomb I was once again alive and walking about just as free as you please.

65 *(pause)*

Now, what would you say to that?

PRISCA

I'd say that person had slipped and hit his head on a rock.

SARAH

70 As well you might. Even if the person telling you had always told the truth before—even if there were others who backed up his story—you'd have a hard time believing, wouldn't you?

PRISCA

I guess I would.

75 **SARAH**

(coyly)

Maybe we could even call you “doubting” Prisca.

PRISCA

(protesting)

80 But Gramma—

SARAH

Your Grampa was a good man, and Jesus loved him—as He loved all His disciples. But my husband had spent three long years walking with Jesus. And for three years he mostly saw Jesus as a man—a very wise, loving
85 man. It was hard for Thomas to understand that Jesus was God in flesh.

(pause)

Just as maybe you would have had the same doubts.

PRISCA

(after thinking a moment)

90 But Jesus told them what would happen, and still he doubted.

SARAH

That's very true. And that was enough for some. But Thomas wore his humanity a bit closer to the surface than others.

95 *(pause; thinking back; nostalgically)*

Maybe that's why I loved him so.

(pause)

There are two things you must remember. And if you do, these lessons will help you the rest of your life. They'll help you serve your God and live with others.

100

(pause)

The first lesson is that God gave every person a mind of his own. Our heavenly Father isn't interested in the blind praise and empty worship of puppets. He wants everyone to choose, to desire a relationship with Him.

105

And the second lesson is a result of the first: Since every person is left to make up his own mind, then not everyone will have the same kind of faith. Thomas had a more practical faith, and his questioning—his doubts—led him to a

(proudly)

110

deeper, more vibrant faith than he had had before. And he served his Lord gladly for the rest of his life.

PRISCA

(seriously)

Jesus must have been disappointed in Grampa.

115

SARAH

Maybe He was. But He didn't love him any less because of his questioning mind. To the end He showed compassion—even to Thomas. Jesus came to him and offered as proof His hands and His side.

PRISCA

120

And was that enough for Grampa?

SARAH

125 He didn't need that as proof. As soon as he saw Jesus face to face, he
knew—it was truly Him. Right there his faith blossomed, and he cried out,
“My Lord and my God!”

PRISCA

(happily)

That's a good story, Gramma!

130 *(pause)*

And it's really true?

SARAH

(as they exit)

135 Really true. Now, let's go find those other kids—and you can tell them
what kind of a man your Grampa really was.

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