

The Duct Taped Mouth

CHARACTERS: A and B

COSTUMES: Street clothes

PROPS: Duct Tape

SETTING: None specified

At rise: A and B are walking toward each other from opposite directions.

A: Why do you have duct tape on your mouth?

B: *(Hamming it up, mumbles through the tape and uses exaggerated motions to try to communicate. A is confused and keeps making wrong guesses until B finally removes the tape and talks normally)*

A: Your computer ate all the pizza? You just got a new goat? The car jumped over the moon?

B: *(removing tape)* I can only take this off for a second. Tell me if you see my little sister coming.

A: OK. But why?

B: See, every time I try to talk to my younger sister, mean words fly out of my mouth.

A: You mean you speak unkindly to her?

B: You could put it that way, but I prefer to think of it as words flying out of my mouth. That way I'm not responsible--I can't control it!

A: Words are hard to control. James says, "But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison."

B: Deadly poison? I didn't realize it was that bad. If the verse said that, "No one can tame the tongue;" It's hopeless! I'm ruined!

A: Not completely ruined. You've forgotten that in Philippians Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." It's true, without God's help we're hopeless. But with Jesus on our side, we even control our tongues!

B: So I could put the duct tape on my just my tongue instead of over my mouth?

A: I don't think that is the best solution. I mean – how would you eat? This is what I did when I kept saying horrible things to my brother. I asked God to guard my mouth. Psalms 141:3 says, "Set a guard, Oh Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips."

B: God is stronger than duct tape.

A: He sure is. Proverbs also says that "He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles." But don't forget that we can't guard our mouths on our own...we must ask God to let the words of our mouths be acceptable in His sight.

B: Okay, I can do that. What's the second thing?

A: I think we should practice. I'll pretend to be your little sister. I am in your room, and when you come in, you have to say something. If you say godly things, something Jesus might like, the audience will cheer for you and give you a thumbs up...

B: And if I say mean things?

A: Then the audience will say, "Boo" And give you the thumbs down.

B: Okay, let's try it.

A: All right! *(To audience)* You ready? Cheer and thumbs up for nice things, but boo and thumbs down for bad things. *(to B)* start with the last thing you said to your sister.

B: You little hoodlum! This is my room, you hear? You better get out before I count to five, or else...

(Audience boos.)

A: Let's try that again. No name-calling this time.

B: No name-calling? I'll try. What are you doing in my room? It's mine! Get out right now!

(Audience boos.)

A: Hmm...instead of ordering her around, try to make your words kind.

B: Kind? Hmm, that's new! I'll try it. *(Gruffly)* Please get out of my room.

(Audience boos.)

A: Try this. Talk to her the way you liked to be talk to.

B: Oh, you mean the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you'd have others do unto you.

A: That's right! But that's not just some little rule...Jesus said it!

B: That's right. He did. You remember that verse in James that I told you about?

B: Uh huh.

A: Well, the next verse says that with our tongue we bless our "Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;"

B: What is that supposed to mean?

A: Everybody was created in the likeness of God. When we speak to them cruelly, it's like we're talking to God that way. Jesus says that whatever we do to the least of them, we're doing it to Him!

B: That's pretty serious.

A: I think so!

B: Okay, I think I'm ready now.

A: All right, let's go!

B: (*Kindly*) Becky, I have to finish my homework before I can play with you. Could you please give me some space and wait for me outside my room so I can get this done and we can play?

(*Audience cheers.*)

A: That was awesome Joe!

B: You really think so?

A: I really do! It wasn't so hard, was it?

B: No, once I tried to speak to her the way I'd like to be spoken to, it was easy as pie! Speaking of which. I'm going to go find my sister and suggest we help mom make a pie for supper.

A: Great idea. Pie. I love pie. Good thing you won't have that duct tape over your mouth anymore.

B: It sure would be bad to miss out on pie. (*B starts to go*)

A: Remember that "Do unto others...?"

B: Yeah. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

A: Suppose I was making a pie for supper. What would you want me to ask you?

B: I would want you to invite me over to have some pie. (*Laughing*) I'll ask my mom and see if it's OK for you to come over. Having you around will help me remember how to speak to my sister and everybody else.