



## DO YOU WEAR A MASK?

*Characters: Reporter, Voice (who is unseen), Beauty, Treasures, Busyness and Freedom.*

*Props: A mask for each "mask" character, decorated in fashion as deemed appropriate. Any other props could be used, including a microphone for the reporter.*

*Scene: The four masked characters should be seated or milling around with the audience. If performed "on stage," there may be more masked characters on stage, which are not identified, to give the effect of a large party or gathering.*

*(Each time the Voice speaks, the characters freeze in time as the Voice delivers its message.)*

**Reporter:** This is (name) for the *Sonshine Herald*. We are here at the time (name of location, organization, event.) Wow, have you seen such masks? I wonder who all of the people are underneath those masks. Some are quite impressive and others are very intriguing. Maybe we can speak with a few and get a glimpse of who they really are. There is a beautiful-looking mask. (*addressing person with Beauty mask*) Excuse me, that is quite a beautiful mask you are wearing tonight.

**Beauty:** Why, thank you. I am so glad you noticed. Isn't it absolutely stunning? The ad said it was the latest fashion. It is so exquisite. I just had to have it. Doesn't it make me the most beautiful person?

**Reporter:** It does tend to make you stand out in the crowd. What made you decide to select this beauty mask instead of one of the many others? Why wear a mask at all?

**Beauty:** I MUST wear a mask! After all, everyone wants to be beautiful. It is important you know, at least for women. We have to work hard at maintaining our appearance if we want to be loved and accepted. How else am I supposed to feel good about myself?

**Reporter:** So, will you give us a glimpse of what you look like behind your mask?

**Beauty:** (*puts both hands up to her cheeks as if in shock*) Oh no! I could never remove my mask, not with all these people around!

**Voice:** *“Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.”* 1 Peter 3:3-4 (NASB)

*(Beauty walks away, or sits down, pondering what the Voice said while straightening her mask and primping just a little.)*

**Treasures:** *(walking around flashing “treasures” to entice others.)* Look at all the great things I have. These are the very latest and the best.

**Reporter:** Excuse me. I couldn’t help overhearing you telling everyone that you have the very latest and best stuff. What is the stuff you have?

**Treasures:** You name it! If there is anything out there I want, I buy it. In today’s world, nothing satisfies the way having possessions can. There is so much to be had and it is so easy to get all. Just look at this. *(show catalog or pictures of items to be purchased.)*

**Reporter:** Isn’t there more to life than your treasures?

**Treasures:** We all have a right to be happy and that is what the world’s treasures bring. They make you happy and many of them save time, too. That’s why I choose this mask, so I can be satisfied and happy in life.

**Reporter:** Why don’t you take off your mask, get rid of some of those treasures, and show our viewers what is behind the mask?

**Treasures:** Are you nuts? Get rid of my stuff? What would there be left of me?

**Voice:** *“I count all things loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him...”* Philippians 3:8, 9a (NASB)

*(Treasures also returns to the crowd holding tightly to the treasures and thinking about what the Voice said.)*

**Reporter:** I wonder if Treasures is really in possession of all those things or if they are in control of her?

*(Reporter approaches Busyness as she is busy checking her list of things to do and straightening things up.)*

**Reporter:** My, you seem quite busy. Who are you anyway?

**Busyness:** Well, I'm Busyness, can't you see? I just can't seem to sit still. There are meetings to attend, the house to clean, kids to drive here and there, committees to serve on and, of course, my job. Oh, the list could go on and on.

**Reporter:** Why would you want to choose that mask? It sounds so hectic to try to do so much. Don't you get tired, need to be refreshed, want to get away from the rat race?

**Busyness:** Oh, I suppose that the time will come, maybe when the kids are older and I'm not so needed. Who else is going to do everything? I don't want my kids to miss out. Our lives just wouldn't be complete if we didn't experience everything.

**Reporter:** What about the important things in life, like family and faith? After all, this is a church group, isn't it? When do you take time to be with God?

**Busyness:** Why do you think I do all these things? I want my family to have the best. In this fast-paced world, we must keep up. Otherwise we would be failures! And, yes, I do take time for God on Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. We only miss church if there is a ball game or something. I know that God understands.

**Reporter:** So what would happen if you took off your mask of busyness? Who would we find behind it?

**Busyness:** Don't be silly. Who would get everything done around here?

**Voice:** *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* Matthew 6:33 (NASB)

*"He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and whatever he does, he prospers."* Psalm 1:3 (NASB)

*(Busyness rushes off finding more things to do, but somehow not as energetic as before.)*

**Reporter:** Do you think Busyness is really all that fulfilled with all the activities in which she and her family is involved? She seemed rather weary to me. That person wearing the mask over there looks rather wild and intriguing. Let's go check things out. (*approaches Freedom.*) I must say, you are wearing a very interesting looking mask. Would you mind telling our audience something about yourself?

**Freedom:** Certainly! I wear the mask of freedom. It is so great to be free!

**Reporter:** This is a free country. Did you move here from a different country or something?

**Freedom:** Oh no, nothing like that. You see, I am a Christian so I do not have to follow the law anymore. You know the freedom of speech, expression and such I can do whatever I want and I do not have to think about being politically, socially or morally correct. I don't have to worry about how my actions affect others. And I sure don't have to worry about going to hell. I'm forgiven you know.

**Reporter:** You mean you can live however you want and treat others however you want and it doesn't matter?

**Freedom:** You got it! I can gossip, tell little white lies, ignore someone in need of help, go over the speed limit when there's not a cop around, be a loose woman, and fudge on my taxes... whatever I want. Of course, I would NEVER dream of killing someone or stealing or any of those horrible sins. I'm just talking about the little things the world doesn't care about. All I have to do is go to church on Sunday and say I'm sorry to God and I'm still in the good with Him.

**Reporter:** Wow, I have never heard anyone explain being a Christian quite like that before. Are you sure your mask isn't blinding you to a different meaning of what freedom is all about?

**Freedom:** Look, God knows we are going to sin anyway, so that's why He made that plan for Jesus to come. Paul even told the Romans that "*there is now condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*" (Romans 8:1 NASB) I don't go looking for sin, but I don't have to worry about enjoying life because I'm afraid of doing something wrong. And those little sins are no big deal anyway. After all, I'm only human. You can't expect me to be perfect, so why try so hard?

**Voice:** "*For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*" Galatians 5:13 (NASB)

*(Freedom returns to the crowd pondering the words of the Voice.)*

**Reporter:** Somehow, Freedom doesn't seem that free to me. Self-centered maybe, but not all that free. Well, we never did get a good look behind any of those masks. And, of course, there are so many more out there we could have interviewed, but our time is up. It seems there is more lurking behind each mask. Maybe it is sin, the sin of ignorance, selfishness or a void the mask is trying to hide. I wonder if there is any way for those masks to be removed? I suppose there is a way for those sins to be forgiven and the emptiness to be filled.

**Voice:** "*...and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*" 1 John 1:7b (NASB)

**Reporter:** But even if those sins were forgiven, the truth behind the lie that the mask hides must be revealed. But how?

**Voice:** *“If you continue in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.”* John 8:31, 32 (NASB)

**Reporter:** Where did all those masks come from anyway? Look, there is an extra one lying on the table. Maybe we can find a tag or something. *(picks up the mask and turns it over.)* It must be an Internet company. All it say is satan’slies.com. This is reporter (name) signing off with one last question for you. “Can you take off your mask?”

**Voice:** *“If you continue in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.”* John 8:31, 32 (NASB)

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If desired, the following questions might be used to discuss the sketch. This would allow the audience to think about applications of the sketch in their own lives, their LWML group, church, etc.

1. Why do we use “masks” in our lives, and are they always bad?
2. Share comments concerning the Voice and how it may have spoken to the heart of each person wearing a mask. Review Scripture passages if necessary.
3. What does God’s Word have to say about “masks?” How do we rid ourselves of them? How do we identify the “masks” Satan tries to use to deceive us?
4. Share one truth or idea you learned from this sketch, which you might apply to your daily life.