



Cast All Your Care Sketch

[Please provide: five actor/actresses; five copies of the sketch for actor/actresses.]

Characters: Narrator, “God,” Bonnie, Hairstylist, Boss. “God” will be a voice off stage.

Props: Duffel bag (large enough to hold four coats, sweaters, or jackets); four coats/sweaters/jackets with one of the following signs on the back or front of each: anxiety, sin, value, financial worry (anxiety is the first one put on so it should be the smallest with financial worry being the biggest since it is put on over the other three) (you may want coats that match the sign, i.e. green coat – financial worry; black coat – sin); chair for hair salon and props for this; chair and Bible for morning devotions; briefcase, table and papers for office; headband and exercise equipment for gym; flowers and garden tool for yard.

Narrator: *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you ... And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast (1 Peter 5:6-7, 10).*

Bonnie: [Enters carrying duffel bag full of coats, falls to her knees and in despair cries out] Help me God, I can't do it! There is just too much for me to handle. Where are You when I need You?!

God: I am here. What is causing you so much anxiety?

Bonnie: [Put on one coat from the duffel bag as each concern is shared, beginning with the anxiety coat, adding another each time. Be sure to show the back or front of each coat so the sign is clearly visible.] Oh, there's so much! My parent's health is failing. Our LWML expects me to be an officer, as if I don't already do enough at my church! My husband and I can't agree on taking a vacation, and we can't find time to get away with our busy schedules.

God: Go on.

Bonnie: [Sin coat] I am just so tired. Everyone expects so much from me. I can't fulfill everyone's needs. Then there is Your demand for holiness. I can't live up to Your expectations. I try, but I keep sinning. It is impossible for me to be the person You want me to be.

God: I see.

Bonnie: [Value coat] Then there's my job. I have worked with this company for several years with no promotion. Sometimes I feel they don't even know I exist. I just can't seem to do enough to gain status.

God: Anything else?

Bonnie: [Financial-worry coat] Yes, we just can't seem to make ends meet. Jamie needs braces, Josh is growing so fast it seems he's in a new size every few months, not to mention how much food he eats, and Jessica will be ready for college in two years. I just don't know where the money will come from.

God: I understand. You are suffering through some trying situations. As I have promised, I will be with you to help and guide you.

Narrator: Bonnie feels encouraged, but is still carrying her anxieties as she goes to get her hair done. [**Hairstylist** works on **Bonnie's** hair.] As she sits in the chair, God speaks to her heart.

God: Bonnie, I see you are working at perfecting your external beauty. I will perfect your inner beauty – your spirit. But I can only do this if you will spend time with Me each day reading, and meditating on my Word and talking to Me in prayer.

Bonnie: I do desire inner beauty, God. I will get up early tomorrow so that we can spend time together before I go to work.
[At this point **Bonnie** is wearing all four coats]

Narrator: As she said, Bonnie rises early the next day to spend time with God before her busy day. She turns to Matthew 6:25-34.

Bonnie: [Sitting at a table, she reads aloud the Scripture passage, Matthew 6:25-34, and then takes off her worry coat, revealing the value coat as she says]: Thank You, God, for Your promise to provide.

Narrator: Bonnie leaves for work. Though she says she is stressed over the lack of recognition she receives at work, she is really feeling an identity crisis. She is rarely confident of who she is and where she fits. Bonnie's boss comes to her desk to give her a promotion and confirm her importance to the company.

Bonnie: Finally the company has recognized me as an important part of the team. I guess I am somebody!

God: Yes, Bonnie, you are somebody. But you were recognized as important and valuable long before this promotion. You were identified as My child and an heir of My kingdom at your baptism. Your worth and value does not depend on who you are, but on Whose you are. You are My child. As My prophet Isaiah said, *I have called you by name; you are mine* (Isaiah 43:1b).

Bonnie: [Casting off value coat and saying] Thank You, God, for reminding me that my value and identity come from You.

Narrator: Bonnie leaves work and heads for the gym to exercise.
[**Bonnie** is still wearing the sin coat]

God: Just as you are committed to strengthening your body Bonnie, so am I committed to doing everything it takes to bring you into My heavenly kingdom. In your own strength you cannot defeat sin and the devil. You cannot please Me. But Jesus has paid the price for your sins and the sins of the world. He has removed the stain of your sins. My Psalmist recognized this when he wrote “...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12). Be reminded of this forgiveness as you daily confess your sins before Me.

Bonnie: [Taking off the sin coat] Thank You, God, for the price You paid so that I do not have to carry the burden of my sins.

Narrator: Bonnie heads home where she is planting flowers in her garden.
[Bonnie is still wearing the anxiety coat]

God: Bonnie, you can be like those flowers you are planting.

Bonnie: What do you mean God?

God: As the roots of the plant go down deep into the soil for nourishment so that it will grow and become established, so you will grow and become established in Me as you sink your roots into the soil of My Word. Continue to meet with Me every day, to attend worship and Bible study regularly and receive My forgiveness and strength through Holy Communion. There will be hard times as the storms of life are inevitable, but you will be ... like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither ... (Psalm 1:3).

Bonnie: I think I finally understand. As I remain in You, I am able to cast all my anxiety on You because I am confident in Your love for me. [Bonnie casts off her anxiety coat] Thank You, God, for Your patience in teaching me and for the encouragement You so lovingly give.

Narrator: *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast (1 Peter 5:6-7, 10).*

Scripture references are from the NIV.

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Written by Karen Wrege
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