

<b>Advent 2022 Week #5</b>	
<b>DRAMA</b>	
<b>Once or Twice</b>	
<b>By Martyn Scott Thomas</b>	
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<b>Topic:</b>	Faith, lifestyle
<b>Scripture:</b>	2 Peter 1:3-9
<b>Synopsis:</b>	A man who seldom attends church shows up looking for something more.
<b>Characters:</b>	Simon – a “Chreaster” Stan – his pastor
<b>Props/Costumes:</b>	Casual dress. A row of 3 or 4 chairs.
<b>Setting:</b>	The lobby of a church.
<b>Running time:</b>	3 minutes

[*Simon enters and paces uneasily. He sits briefly, then stands and paces again.*]

**Stan:** [enters, starts walking past Simon, then stops] Simon? Is that you?

**Simon:** Oh hi, Stan. [*sits*]

**Stan:** [*a bit surprised*] What are you doing here?

**Simon:** [*stands*] Well, it is Sunday, and this is church, so . . .

**Stan:** Are you dropping off Trish and the kids?

**Simon:** [*sits*] Yes. [*pause*] I mean, no. [*uncertain*] Kind of both, I guess.

**Stan:** [*sits next to Simon*] Are you okay?

**Simon:** I’m alright. It’s just that . . . [*pause*]

**Stan:** You know you can tell me anything, right?

**Simon:** Yeah, I know. It’s just that I’ve never felt like this before.

**Stan:** Like what?

**Simon:** Well, you know that I’m only here a couple of times a year.

**Stan:** Yes, I do. And we have a name for that.

**Simon:** You do?

**Stan:** Yes. You’re a Chreaster.

**Simon:** A what?

**Stan:** A Chreaster. You're someone who only comes to church on Christmas and Easter Sundays.

**Simon:** That's a little insulting, don't you think?

**Stan:** Yes, it is. And I apologize. I didn't mean to make light of that fact. I know you're a good man who loves God and loves his family.

**Simon:** But you're not completely wrong.

**Stan:** So, I'll ask again. What are you doing here, [*slight pause*] today?

**Simon:** I'm thinking that maybe I need to be here more often.

**Stan:** That's good. How often are you thinking?

**Simon:** I think maybe every week.

**Stan:** [*surprised*] Well, that's great! What brought this on?

**Simon:** I don't know. It just feels like I'm missing out on something.

**Stan:** [*agreeing*] I think you are.

**Simon:** I mean, I know Jesus was born and died and rose again. And I've always thought that was all I needed. But there are a lot of days in between Christmas and Easter.

**Stan:** Yes, there are.

**Simon:** And there's so much more to his story than those two events that I need to learn.

**Stan:** I think you've come to the right place. And you know we're open every day of the week.

**Simon:** Really?

**Stan:** Yes, we have Bible studies, children's programs, adult ministries.

**Simon:** And anyone can come to those?

**Stan:** Anyone.

**Simon:** There are definitely days I really need more of something to get me through.

**Stan:** It's almost like you need Jesus every day.

**Simon:** Exactly. So instead of just dropping off Trish and the kids today, I thought I might stick around.

**Stan:** Well, I'm glad you're here.

**Simon:** I'm not making any promises. Let's just see how this goes.

**Stan:** [*stands*] Shall we go into the chapel?

**Simon:** [*stands*] I guess. So, how does this work? Are there assigned seats?

**Stan:** [*starting to walk*] No, there are no assigned seats, although some people do have their favorite spots. But families usually sit together.

**Simon:** [*walking with Stan*] Oh yeah. Right. I guess I should look for Trish.

**Stan:** That would be a good place to start. I'm sure she's saved a seat for you.

**Simon:** Do you have one of those sermon things every week?

**Stan:** Yes. And this week, I'm speaking on 2nd Peter.

**Simon:** Do you think you can keep it under 15 minutes? My stomach starts growling around 11:45. [*emphasizing*] It could get loud.

**Stan:** I'll see what I can do.

**Simon:** Great. [*exiting*] Have you guys ever thought about serving refreshments? It could help supplement your offering.

**Stan:** [*following Simon*] I'll bring that up at the next council meeting.

[*Blackout*]