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“New Year, Same You”

by
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- What** In this Reader’s Theatre script, three December 31st merrymakers decide resolutions aren’t the thing their souls needs most, and that a little heart-to-heart with the incoming New Year is in order.
- Themes: New Year, Resolutions, Change, Strength, Trust, Rest, New Beginning
- Who** Reader 1
Reader 2
Reader 3
- Note: Can also be performed as a monologue.
- When** Present day
- Wear (Props)** 3 chairs, scripts
Audio clip of “new year crowd countdown” or “Auld Lang Syne” (not included)
3 microphones
3 remote controls
Celebration props: New Year’s Eve hats or noisemakers
- Why** John 6:29, Matthew 11:28-30, Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 118:8, Psalm 37:1-7
- How** The readers can be conversational and casual. Be careful not to rush it! Don’t be afraid of well-placed pauses. We’re getting to eavesdrop on their thoughts and hopes as they speak to a personified New Year.
- NOTE: This script can also be performed as a monologue.
- Time** Approximately 2-3 minutes

Scene opens with the sound of a celebratory New Year's countdown audio clip. Our 3 Actors sit, New Year hats perched on their head (or perhaps a noisemaker in mouth). Looking straight ahead, they each have remote controls in hand – scripts in the other. Each poised as if about to turn off a "TV" that is implied in front of them. Each Reader stands and moves to their microphone to speak their first line. Microphones can be in a straight line (spaced out across the stage) or staggered slightly. If already mic'd, actors may just step forward into position. Actors may feel free to react/interact with one another's lines or remain facing forward as though not aware of one another.

"10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...HAPPY NEW YEAR!!"

Readers pretend to simultaneously turn off a TV (implied) in front of them. The laugh track stops abruptly and they put down their remote controls. Each stand to deliver their part.

Reader 1: Forgive me, New Year. I think I want a change.

I just don't feel like making resolutions at the stroke of midnight anymore. I'm not convinced the vertical hands of a clock change me from the inside. Could a countdown make me different? Make me better?

Reader 2: Or maybe we just need to define "better."

I have trouble pretending a new year makes me stronger. A flip of the calendar and now it's somehow more do-able? That January makes it possible to put space between myself and the pavement. Maybe if I yank hard enough on my shoelaces...

Reader 3: And in truth, New Year, I think I'm calling your bluff.

How long have you been at it? Making promises you must've known you couldn't keep. Leading us to believe year-end bravado was the point. Pretending our wellness is dependent on the strength of our demeanor or the flex of our swagger.

Reader 2: Because I've been looking at scripture and I'll tell you what I don't see. I've never once seen God impressed by the strut of a person. I've never seen a bicep curl that made God stand up and take notice.

Reader 1: But thanks for the inspirational memes! I like inspiration. And memes. And I, too, am a dreamer of dreams. But if it's all the same to you, I think I'd rather this new start ring with a quieter aim.

Reader 3: The aim? To bring this will of mine lower and my thoughts of God higher. God seems to like that. A child who trusts so fully in the Driver that (s)he's willing to rest the whole ride home. God likes it when we believe His Son. He seems to run toward trust. Especially when it's dark.

Reader 2: So, New Year, it's great to see you! Really. You come with armfuls of possibility. So generous with fresh starts.

Reader 1: How very much we want a fresh start...

Reader 3: But if you could keep the noise to a minimum tonight, that'd be great.

Reader 2: Because tonight...

Reader 1: Tonight...

Reader 3: Tonight...

All: *(in unison)* My soul is resting.

Lights out.

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