

The Proposal

This is a short drama intended to highlight the difficulties and rewards of making a commitment - a Covenant - with God. The scene takes the form of a proposal for marriage by a very-in-love man (Josh) to his uncertain and somewhat reluctant girlfriend (Faith). The drama begins with the couples out on a romantic walk near a lake. Josh is rather nervous, and has planned a little stop on a bench to "pop-the-question." Faith is very attracted to him and loves him deeply, but is frightened of the implications of this commitment, and so tries to wriggle out of it - to humorous effect.

Characters:

- Josh:** A strong, but gentle young man. Deeply in love with his girlfriend, and determined not to let her off the hook.
- Faith:** A very independent but caring young woman. She is a rather effusive person, but sometimes uses this to hide her real feelings. Nervous of commitment, she doesn't want to hurt Josh's feelings.

The couple enter holding hands and chatting about the scenery around them - the birds, the weather, the lake etc. Josh is obviously nervous, but trying to hide it from Faith - this is something of a challenge to convey for the actor, but his short, clipped, sentences, and nervous laughter accomplish this effectively.

- Faith:** *(Animatedly)* Oh, Josh look! A swan! *(Turning to him)* How can I thank you for bringing me here. It is absolutely exquisite. A Garden of Eden! You're such a romantic!
- Josh:** *(Nervous laugh)* Well, uh, I'm glad you like it.
- Faith:** Like it? I'm entranced! You really do spoil me.
- Josh:** You're right. Er, um, I mean you're worth it. Can we talk?
- Faith:** Why, certainly, Josh. You have my full and undivided attention!
- Josh:** *(Indicating a park bench)* Let's sit down.
(He takes a deep breath preparing himself for his speech, and looks her in the eyes)
Faith, we've known each other for quite a while now, and we seem to enjoy being together - at least I know I do . . . enjoy it . . . uh, being with you. Anyway, I was wondering if you would consider, um, being my, uh, wife?
- Faith:** *(With an expression that can be read as either joy or shock)* Oh, Joshua! You and me? Married? You mean to each other? Together for ever? *(Pause - it looks like she's about to embrace him, then she turns away)* Oh, this spoils the whole thing!
- Josh:** *(Confused and downcast)* Why? Don't you love me?

Faith: Oh, of course I love you. But, this - this changes everything. What's wrong with the way it is now? We're in love and we can enjoy that, but we both have . . . space!

Josh: But, Faith, I want more. I want to be the first love in your life. I want us to share everything - work together, play together. To belong to each other, always!

Faith: *(Looking for an excuse and latching on to the first one she can think of)* How do I know you aren't just trying to get at my money?

Josh: *(Laughing for moment)* You don't have any! Except maybe if you pawned some of the jewelery I've given you...

Faith: *(Sulky, but a little triumphant)* Then, you're marrying me for *your* money!

Josh: It's not about money! It's about you and me. I want to give you everything I am, and I want you to do the same.

Faith: But, Josh, I'm not sure that I'm ready. I love life, and freedom, and people.

Josh: Especially men-people?

Faith: Oh, Josh, you're the only one for me, the light of my life. *(She flashes a wicked grin)* But, I so enjoy flirting with others - you know - just a taste of the world, so to speak! Can't we leave it nice and fuzzy, the way it is now?

Josh: We could, I guess. But you know that we must grow, or we'll die. It's time, Faith.

Faith: *(Pretending ignorance)* Time for what, Josh?

Josh: *(A little frustrated now)* To move to the next level. It really is time.

Faith: *(Still reluctant, but seeing his point)* I know, I know. But, can't we move to the next level, next week? Must it be now? I'm so comfortable at this level.

(Josh just looks at her, the love in his eyes is clear.)

Oh, alright, then. I'm scared, Josh - I don't know if I can be what you need or want from me. I don't know if I have the strength to keep it up, and there will be days when I will need you to hold on to me very tightly, and not let go, because I'll want to run away - But, *(brightening)* Yes! I will marry you.

Josh: And the Covenant now made on earth - let it be ratified in heaven.

Written by John van de Laar

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