

Livin' on a Prayer

By: Steph Dube

Cast: Kennedy, Alex, Mary Elizabeth & Mary Kate

One Thing: Because of Jesus, prayer is our communication with God.

Key verse: Isaiah 53:6

PROLOGUE OLD SAM OPENER - Video

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT – DAY

FADE IN:

OLDER SAM (v.o.)

I'll never forget the day Kennedy got some really bad news. It seemed like things were truly going downhill in the life of one of the Rooftop Kids. Little did she know, God was going to use a bad situation to teach her something very important.

FADE OUT.

SCENE ONE

EXT. PARK

Scene opens as video is ending. Alex is sitting on a park bench reading a book.

KENNEDY ENTERS.

Kennedy looks very downcast. Her head is hanging low and she is shuffling her feet as she walks, overly dramatically. She sits next to Alex. Kennedy sighs LOUDLY and sinks low. Alex looks at Kennedy and goes back to her book. Kennedy sighs even LOUDER and shifts her weight in the bench MORE noticeably, causing the bench to shake a little. Alex lowers her book, looks at Kennedy for just a moment, and goes back to reading. For the final time, Kennedy sighs VERY LOUDLY and slumps so low that she falls off the bench.

KENNEDY
(with a thud)

Ah, man!

Alex puts her book down abruptly.

ALEX
(frustrated)

WHAT IS IT?

KENNEDY
(crossing her arms, pouting)
Nothin'.

ALEX
Obviously it's something.

ALEX helps KENNEDY back onto the bench.

KENNEDY
(sighs)
I don't wanna talk about it.

ALEX

You just dragged me away from a very exciting moment in my book. You have to tell me, now.

KENNEDY

What are you reading?

ALEX

It's called "Sewage and Me." You see, my family has this problem...

KENNEDY

(interrupting)

I really don't want to hear about your problems. I have enough of my own.

ALEX

So what's going on? You never look like this.

KENNEDY

(alarmed)

Look like WHAT? Are you saying I look bad?

Kennedy is getting overly upset by Alex's innocent comment.

ALEX

No, I wasn't saying...

KENNEDY

(dramatically)

I can't believe that on top of everything else, I look BAD. This is awful. I have to give a speech later today and I can't look bad. NOT BAD!

She says the last line waaayyyy too dramatically, jumping from the bench. Alex gets up and puts a comforting hand on her shoulder.

ALEX

You look fine. Really. Look, I don't know what's going on, but it can't be THAT bad.

KENNEDY

Oh, you would think so, wouldn't you? But you don't know what's happened to me today.

ALEX

Have you tried praying? Asking God to help you?

KENNEDY

God? Help *me*?

Kennedy laughs bitterly.

KENNEDY (CONT)

Have you SEEN the dark cloud that's been following me around all day? I think God sent it to me. Prayer's not gonna help.

ALEX

There's no way it's THAT bad.

KENNEDY

Oh really?

Suddenly, the lights get much dimmer, as if on cue... (Hey, whatdya know, they ARE on cue...) :)

SFX: Ominous thunder, followed by spooky foreboding dramatic music.

Kennedy speaks over the music, dramatically.

KENNEDY

I'll tell you what's been going on,
During this dark day long,
First my hair looked really bad,
And I felt extremely sad.
Then my cafeteria food
Had something green – What to do?
And then I broke one of my nails,
And finally...

She steps forward dramatically, and...

SFX: As Kennedy speaks this next line, the music stops abruptly and the lights flash back on to normal.

KENNEDY

Ah, man!!!!

She picks up her foot and looks at the bottom of her shoe, grimacing.

ALEX

What? What is it?

KENNEDY

I don't believe this... I don't believe this!

ALEX

What?!

KENNEDY

I stepped in dog doo.

Alex tries to stifle a laugh, but it doesn't work so well.

ALEX

(chuckling)

Ah Kennedy, I'm sorry... Really...

KENNEDY

It's all over my foot, and I smell like it too!

ALEX

(struggling to speak between laughs)

It's not...that... bad...

She accidentally gets a good whiff...

ALEX (CONT)

Ok, it really is that bad. And trust me, I know about stink, since my family's got that sewage problem. You need a shower, girl.

Kennedy takes the shoe off her foot and shakes it at the sky.

KENNEDY

This is all Your fault!

SFX: Bird SFX, followed by **squirt SFX**

KENNEDY

(covering an eye) Oh, ow, ow! Hey, thanks a lot!

ALEX

(seriously)

Uh, Kenn? I don't think you need to be blaming God for...

KENNEDY

(softly)

My Dad lost his job.

ALEX

What?

KENNEDY

I just found out this morning. My parents don't know if they'll be able to make the next house payment. I don't think they have enough money to feed us for the rest of the week... I don't know what we're gonna do...

Alex hugs Kennedy comfortingly.

ALEX

I'm so sorry... We need to pray. You know, I had some pretty big problems last week and JP told me that we can always go to God for everything. He has a plan, even if we can't see it now. Because of Jesus and what He did for us, we can pray about this. And we can know He will help.

KENNEDY

I don't know if even *God* can fix this...

ALEX

Let's pray for a breakthrough, Kennedy. Let's pray right now for God to step in and do a miracle.

KENNEDY

It'll take one.

The two bow their heads to pray, and the lights dim.

SCENE 2

EXT. PARK

This time, it's Kennedy who is sitting alone on the bench. Her head is bowed and she is praying.

MARY KATE and MARY ELIZABETH enter, chattering away.

MARY KATE

Mary *Liz*, that sweater was PINK.

MARY LIZ

No Mary Kate, it was mauve.

MARY KATE

Please, you wouldn't know mauve if it gave you the bad dye job that kept you blacklisted from the country club for a month and a half.

MARY LIZ

Would too!

MARY KATE

Would not.

MARY LIZ

Would too!

MARY KATE

Enough. The Queen of Fashion (pointing at herself) has spoken.

The Skyes stop short as they see Kennedy with her head bowed.

MARY LIZ

Is she sleeping?

MARY KATE

(calling out loudly)

Helloooooo! There is no loitering in this park.

Kennedy looks up from her prayer, startled.

MARY LIZ
She wasn't littering, M. K., she was sleeping!

MARY KATE
I said *loitering*, you Furby-loving idiot, not littering.
It means hanging out where you're (to KENNEDY)
not wanted.

KENNEDY
I wasn't loitering, I was praying.

MARY KATE
(sarcastically)
And I buy all my clothes at Wal-Mart.

KENNEDY
I'm serious.

MARY LIZ
Why would you want to do that?

KENNEDY
Because I need God's help. There's something I
can't do without Him.

MARY LIZ
Well, it looked more like you were sleeping to me.

KENNEDY
I wasn't. I was asking God for something specific.

MARY KATE
Sounds to me like you're wasting time you could
spend elsewhere. *Specifically*, shopping at Saks
or Neiman's, updating that awful red blood clot
you call a pant suit. (To MARY LIZ, as if a dog)
C'mon! C'mon, Precious!

MARY LIZ starts toward her reluctantly.

MARY KATE
Ohhhh, that's such a good girl! (To KENNEDY)
Nice to check in on the homeless every now and
then.

MARY KATE EXITS. Mary Liz is close behind, but she stops short of exiting. She turns and looks at Kennedy. Pauses as if debating her next move. Then she runs over to Kenn.

MARY LIZ
Umm... hey, Lemony?

KENNEDY
It's Kennedy.

MARY LIZ
Does prayer really work? Cuz there's something I really need that I can't get on my own... And I don't know where to turn.

KENNEDY
Ask God to help you. It's not a waste of time. It's the best thing you can do.

MARY LIZ
And He will help me?

KENNEDY
Yes Mary Elizabeth... He will.

MARY LIZ
(clapping excitedly)
Oh, goodie!

She runs off the stage. MARY LIZ EXITS.

Kennedy bows her head again, when her cell phone rings.

SFX: Cell phone ringing.

Kennedy picks up her phone.

KENNEDY
Hello? Mom? What's the news?

Alex enters. She overhears Kennedy and sits next to her. Kennedy is listening, and then hangs up the phone.

ALEX

So... What happened?

Kennedy does not look happy.

KENNEDY

Dad interviewed for four jobs today and he didn't get any of them. And Alex, the bank is threatening to kick us out of the house. We only have until the end of the week now!

ALEX

Oh, Kennedy...

KENNEDY

I thought you said God would help. But things are only getting WORSE.

ALEX

I don't know what He's doing Ken. But He DID hear us. You have to trust Him. He just may not work as quickly as we want Him to.

(beat)

Come on, let's pray about this again.

The two girls bow their heads again, and the lights dim.

EPILOGUE: OLDER SAM CLOSER – VIDEO

FADE IN:

OLDER SAM (v.o.)

Kennedy's lesson isn't over. God doesn't always work by our timetable. And He doesn't always do what we want Him to do. Kennedy's learning that, and she's learning to trust Him and keep on praying even when she doesn't see an answer immediately. But who knows what might happen next week, in the lives of the Rooftop Kids.

FADE OUT.