



“59 Minutes”

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Scene 4

Outside Hospital/Celebrations

TOUR GUIDE: Several hours have passed and Matthew and Jennifer have been enjoying the youth group gathering at Celebrations. Jennifer is all excited about her new faith and is sharing her excitement with everyone at the party. Jake has shown up with a couple of friends, unaware that he is going to run into Matthew and Jennifer and the youth group from church.

Meanwhile, Karen has spent the past few hours with John at the hospital, wondering what is going to happen. Karen's best friend Marcie brought Trevor and Victoria to the hospital to see their dad.

John is in very critical condition. Time is passing quickly.

Scene 4—Split scene with hospital room & Party at Celebrations

Set-Up: This is designed as a split scene. The Celebrations side needs to be behind a scrim and will be completely dark until that part of the scene begins. The hospital scene needs to be stark and sterile. The Celebrations side needs to be loud with sirens, crying, and screaming when that scene is going on. Once the Celebrations part begins, both scenes will stay lit and the lines will switch back and forth between the two so that as the time of death is pronounced by Dr Anderson, the bodies are being covered in Celebrations. The idea is that everyone dies at the same moment.

(Karen is sitting by John's bedside. She is trying to talk to him but he is unresponsive. He is hooked to a respirator and heart monitor. The doctor and nurse enter and begin checking the monitors.)

DR. ANDERSON: Karen, I'm very sorry. We've done everything we can for John. The heart attack was just too massive and the time that elapsed before medical crews got to him was too long. His body is being kept alive right now but there's no brain activity. There's no hope for John. According to John's living will and from what you have told me, he didn't want to be kept on life support. We're going to disconnect life support, but I would like to give you a chance to say good-bye to him.

KAREN: This is just happening too fast! I don't understand why it happened! He promised the kids that he would be there to hug them when they got home! What will I tell them? How will we go on?

DR. ANDERSON: I know that you don't understand what's happening and it is hard to see your spouse in this condition. Your pastor is here. He's waiting right outside.

(Doctor exits and Pastor Mark enters.)

PASTOR MARK, slowly and tenderly: Karen, I'm so sorry that this has happened to John. It is difficult to understand how a young man such as John is in this condition. Just remember that God is in control and He is your strength.

KAREN: Thanks, Pastor Mark. I know that God is in control but I just don't know if John was really ready for eternity or not. He always told me that he had done enough good things to get into heaven.

PASTOR MARK, continues in a quiet and gentle manner: You know that a relationship with Jesus is the only way for a person to go to heaven when they die. John's eternal destination is already set. Now you have to go on and continue in your relationship with Jesus and let Him be your help. Let's pray together. Lord, please help Karen as she deals with this tragedy. Help her as she comforts her children. Help her to lean on you every step of the way and trust your perfect plan for her life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

(Nurse walks in with the kids. They go to Karen.)

TREVOR: What happened to Daddy? Mommy, why isn't Daddy awake? He promised me that he would give me a hug. Why can't we just go home?

KAREN (squats or kneels to be on kids' level): Trevor, Victoria, Daddy isn't going to wake up. He got very sick while we were at church and his heart quit working. I know this is very hard for you but you need to tell Daddy good bye.

VICTORIA: Why do we have to tell him good bye? Isn't he going to come home with us?

KAREN: Daddy is really sick....(crying) and he is not coming home with us. (pauses and hugs kids) Let me lift you up so you can hug Daddy and tell him good-bye.

(The two children stand on a chair near their dad and kiss him good-bye. Trevor tries to hug him as best he can. They leave with Pastor Mark and the nurse.)

TREVOR: (turns as they are leaving) I love you, Daddy.

(Karen speaks to John.)

KAREN: (speaking tenderly and caressing John's head or hand.) John, I hope you were right when you said that you knew that you were going to heaven. I don't know how we are going to live without you but I know that Jesus will be by my side each step. I hope I will see you in heaven some day. (continues to cry and leans over John.)

(Ambulance siren blares which signals the lights to fade on the hospital scene and come up on the Celebrations scene. This scene is done behind a scrim.)

(Ambulance sirens are blaring and lights are flashing from outside the store.)

Celebrations:

(This is a crime scene with 3 bodies lying on the floor of the store. Paramedics are just arriving. Witnesses are sobbing uncontrollably. Teens are trying to huddle around Matthew and Jennifer and help them but an officer is keeping them back. Other perpetrator is being escorted to police car off the scene. A police officer is talking to the store manager as the scene opens and then moves to talk to Officer McGinnis is at the appropriate time.)

PARAMEDIC: One female, approximately 17 years old with a gunshot wound to the chest, one 16 year old male with a gunshot wound to the head, one 15 year old male with a gunshot wound in the back. Put Lifewatch on notice.

(Let chaos and commotion continue for about 1 minute. Officer McGinnis is trying to assist the EMT's and the victims. Officer McGinnis is pulled toward the tour group by another officer who takes his statement as follows.)

POLICE OFFICER: (pulls Officer McGinnis toward the tour group and away from the victims.) Are you the officer who was involved in this shooting? (McGinnis nods.) Give me your account of what happened here.

MCGINNIS: I was working security here at Celebrations. I had gone to the back room to check the doors and I came out just in time to see the young man in the red shirt holding a gun on the clerk and some customers and yelling at them not to move. His friend was at the cash drawer grabbing money out of it. I guess I scared them because the gun went off and the young girl was shot. The boy over there moved in front of some of the other people, and another bullet hit him in the head. By then I had pulled my gun and I shot the perpetrator. His friend dropped the money and surrendered to me. I arrested him while the store manager called 9-1-1.

Lights come back on in hospital scene and lights stay on in arcade scene. Paramedics are working on victims.

(Dr Anderson and nurse return.)

DR. ANDERSON: Karen, we're going to disconnect John's life support now.

Paramedics begin calling out the report on their victims:

Jennifer - 16 year old female gunshot to the chest, gross penetrating trauma, massive blood loss, no pulse, no respirations, pupils fixed and dilated...

Matthew - 16 year old male, gunshot wound to the head, extensive trauma, pupils fixed and dilated, absence of reflexes, extrusion of brain matter, no pulse, no spontaneous respirations....

Jake - 17 year old male, gunshot wound to the back, comatose, no detectable blood pressure, massive blood loss, no pulse, cardiac arrest...

DR. ANDERSON: Go ahead and disconnect life support.

(Nurse removes support. Heart monitor flat-lines. Paramedics are pulling sheets over each victim.)

DR. ANDERSON: Time of death—8:30 p.m. (or fill in the actual time if you like)

PARAMEDIC:(On radio) Dispatch, cancel Lifewatch. We have 3 fatalities.

TOUR GUIDE: Follow Me.

(Walk to Judgement Scene.)