

The Decision

by Dennis Durrett-Smith

Laodicea

Jesus

Satan

Running time: Approximately 6:00 minutes

Girl, center, straddling a fence with Satan and Jesus on opposite sides. Satan is pacing, while Jesus calmly waits.

Laodicea: *shifts uncomfortably on fence, then a big sigh*

Jesus: Have you reached a decision?

Satan: Sir, a little compassion, please! Can't you see that she is suffering from a great deal of mental anguish, *She puts hands to her head.* as well as some degree of physical pain? *She throws forearm across forehead.* Why, the poor thing must be exhausted! *She slumps in an exhausted heap and moans.*

Jesus: You dare speak to me of compassion and suffering? *Satan bristles and turns away.* Her present discomfort speaks of the greater pain in her soul.

Laodicea: Discomfort? Hey, thanks a lot! Here I am perched on this tortuous fence, feeling more dead than alive –

Jesus: True.

Laodicea: and all you can talk about is my soul? WHO CARES? I tell you – I'm hurtin' up here! *She begins to whimper and whine*

Satan: There, there. Don't fret, my dear. I care. Just give me your hand and I'll . . .

Jesus: Stop! You must understand "those whom I love I rebuke and discipline." "Be earnest and repent" then you will realize that your present situation is of your own choosing, or rather, lack of it.

Laodicea: What?!

Satan: Of all the unmitigated gall! It is preposterous to imply that this miserable creature has inflicted upon herself this trying set of circumstances!

Laodicea: Preposterous!

Satan: Why, it is downright insensitive to even suggest such a thing!