

Saints Alive! – Synopsis

Act 1

Luke and Paul are in the pub. Luke is a doctor and Paul is a builder. Simon joins them. He makes a good honest living from the properties he has bought to let and is suspected to supplement this with drug money. They talk and Martha the bar girl joins in the conversation.

Mary, Liz and Sarah arrive. Liz is Luke's wife and Sarah is Paul's wife. Mary is Liz's sister and has recently become Simon's girlfriend. Simon is married but has separated from his wife, whose name is Alex.

Act 2

Paul is made redundant by his company after they lose a lot of money. He is aggrieved because the loss-making projects were not the ones he was working on. Sarah is expecting their first child and continues to show love to Paul despite what has happened. Paul struggles to come to terms with what has happened and to accept Sarah's love. Luke and Martha affirm him too but Paul cannot forgive his company, or himself, for what has happened. Sarah absorbs all his angst and has a miscarriage as a result, but continues to love him just as before.

Act 3

Luke works longer hours than ever at his practice. He is secretly nervous that he might find himself in the same position as Paul. In his absence Liz meets Alex and a catfight ensues. Alex calls Liz's sister Mary a whore and a gold-digger. Liz hits back with the accusation that it was Alex that got Simon involved in the drug world and that getting rid of her was part of Simon starting to turn over a new leaf. Alex responds by asking how much Liz sees of her husband, and suggesting that he prefers work to spending time with her. Liz angrily rejects this, but when they go their separate ways, she starts to wonder whether she is right. Luke responds impatiently to her attempts to talk about her anxieties, they have a big row, and Liz ends up going to see a solicitor about a divorce.

Act 4

Mary is doing wonders with Simon. She is kind, well-balanced, good-natured and chaste. He loves her with something approaching veneration, and despises not only Alex but himself as well. He repents of his wickedness in getting involved in drug dealing and turns himself in to the police. As a result of his confessions many other arrests are made, including several members of Alex's immediate family. Alex meets Mary in the street and attacks her, horribly scarring her face with a knife. Simon visits Mary in hospital and swears that he will kill Alex. Mary tells him that we must forgive them that trespass against us, just as God has forgiven us. She makes him

promise to love Alex for her sake and to pray for her. Simon insists that this is impossible and Mary promises to pray for him.

Act 5

Liz visits Mary in hospital. She is upset at her collapsing relationship with Luke. Mary recalls Alex's contribution and asks her sister to forgive Alex for insulting both her and Luke. They pray together and Liz does so against floods of tears. Luke arrives and Liz finds that now that she has forgiven Alex she can forgive Luke too.

Paul arrives and asks how she can be so strong in such adversity. Mary guesses that he has been asking himself this question about Sarah too. She replies quoting St John that we love because God first loved us, and that God's love means that she still has love to give not only when she is not loved but even when she is injured by others. She urges Paul to forgive his company for making him redundant and himself for failing to keep the money coming in because she suspects that Sarah's inner resources might be more limited than her own. Sarah arrives and Paul makes the first steps towards doing what Liz has told him. Sarah is overjoyed.

Finally, Alex arrives. She is escorted by the police. Martha has come in her capacity as a community police officer and asks Mary if she is sure she wants to speak to Alex. Mary insists. Alex recounts coldly how Simon had told her that he loved her and asked for her forgiveness for his own marital unfaithfulness, how she had flown into a rage and stabbed him dead, and how he had forgiven her as he died. Mary adds that her sister Liz also forgave Alex for insulting her husband, and that she herself forgave her for her injuries. Mary asks for forgiveness from Alex for getting into a relationship with her husband. Alex sullenly refuses. She says that when she gets out she will finish off the job on Mary's face, if one of her family doesn't do so sooner. She spits on Mary. Martha leads her roughly away. Mary cries for the first time.

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To be a winner:

1. Listen to your customers, know who your customers are, and give your customers what they want.
2. Yield, think, talk, pray, and wait – in that order.