

I.INT.DAY1.ASO

1

Meka is coming out of her HIV counselor's office about to leave the ASO. Johnny comes out of a room behind her and sees her. There's a receptionist working and someone comes in as they talk

JOHNNY

Hey Meka, how are you?

MEKA

Hey Johnny, not so good.

JOHNNY

You just had a session with your counselor?

MEKA

Yeah, and I don't know what I'm gonna do.

She starts to walk down the hall leading out of the center, and Johnny walks with her as they talk.

JOHNNY

Look I know it's a lot to take in finding out you're positive, but you've taken the first step by getting help, and treatment.

MEKA

That's part of the problem, Mrs. Dobbs says that the funding has been cut and there is less money for medications.

JOHNNY

I know, and I'm working on putting together a fundraiser to raise money to help with that and other services.

MEKA

She wants me to ask my mama to help me pay for my medications.

JOHNNY

Oh..... well how are things with her? Has she let you come back home?

*
*
*

MEKA

(shaking her head)

Nope, she won't see me, hangs up on me when I call. She won't even let my sister and brothers talk to me. I go up the schools and walk home with them sometimes though.

*

JOHNNY

Aw that's tough. I'm so sorry you're going through that. Where are you staying?

MEKA

Oh, here and there. With friends....

*

*

JOHNNY

What about school? You keeping up with your class at the University.

MEKA

Mama and Rick stopped paying for my tuition, so I had to drop out.

*

JOHNNY

What about your pastor at church. Maybe you could talk to him and see if the church could help you with your medication and even with your Mom, and a place to stay.

MEKA

I'm usually pretty comfortable talking to him, but I don't know about something like this. Being HIV positive changes what people think of you and how they feel about you.

*

JOHNNY

Churches are supposed to help those who are sick, regardless of the illness or how they got it. If anyone accepts you and helps you, it should be the church. Besides I finally talked to my pastor about being gay and he helped me.

MEKA

Really? you weren't afraid or ashamed?

JOHNNY

Of course I was! I was afraid of being judged and being rejected, booted out of the church, but he didn't do any of those things.

MEKA

What did he do?

JOHNNY

He told me about people from the Bible like, the woman at the well, and the woman about to be stoned, David and Bathsheba.... He said that everyone, gay or straight has fallen short of the glory of God, and is worth saving. He didn't judge me, but instead showed me compassion.

MEKA

Wow.....

JOHNNY

So if it worked for me, you have nothing to worry about. So don't be afraid, go to your pastor and ask for help. It will be ok.

MEKA

Ok, I'll give it a shot. I have nothing to lose I guess.

*

JOHNNY

Don't worry, you will. It will all work out!

MEKA

(reaching over to hug Johnny)
Thanks Johnny I think you're right.

JOHNNY

(laughing)
Hey! I'm always right didn't you know.

II.EXT.DAY1.FROM SCHOOL

2

Meka is hanging out near the school as it lets out and is looking for Tyisha among the kids walking home. She spots her talking to some friends and waves at her. Tyisha sees her and quickly leaves her friends to run over to hug her sister. They start to walk home.