

INT. CHURCH - SANCTUARY - DAY

A group of church members including Dean, Dick, Barb, Cynthia, and Gail hang up Christmas decorations.

Children practice for Christmas pageant.

Mark sees Paul alone hanging a wreath and goes to help him.

INT. BISHOP LOVETT'S OFFICE - DAY

Audrey sits before Bishop Lovett, tiny in his large leather chair.

BISHOP LOVETT
What can I do for you?

AUDREY
It's about my husband.

INT. CHURCH - SANCTUARY - DAY

Children practice for nativity scene.

Mark and Paul hang boughs of fake holly from the balcony.

MARK
Paul. I'm worried about Audrey.

PAUL
How so?

MARK
Well, she seems upset by your last sermon.

PAUL
What isn't she upset about these days?

Paul goes to take a twist-tie out of a bag. The bag is empty.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Can you run and get us some more twist-ties, I've run out.

MARK
Sure.

PAUL
I'll just hold this here.

Mark laughs and walks away.

Paul holds the bough, when suddenly a hand covers his.

It's all Paul can do to keep his balance.

He looks up to see Cynthia on the balcony tying a red ribbon to the banister.

CYNTHIA

You and Mark seem to be getting along well.

PAUL

Yeah, he turned out to be a good kid.

Paul smiles fondly at Mark who is helping Edna untangle a rope of Christmas lights.

CYNTHIA

He's such a good looking boy too.

PAUL

I guess.

CYNTHIA

Audrey seems to think so.

PAUL

What are you getting at?

CYNTHIA

Oh, it's nothing I'm sure. It's only that, last Sunday, I saw them coming out of a closet together.

(beat)

There, got it.

Cynthia finishes tying the bow and walks on.

Paul looks curiously at Mark. Mark sees him looking and smiles.

Paul doesn't smile back. Mark looks confused.

The baby Jesus starts crying in the manger.