



(Drama)  
**CATCHING UP**

by  
Owen Robertson  
414 Piney Grove Rd.  
Greenville, SC 29607

(Actors are lined up across the stage in the following order starting stage right: 2, 3, 1, 4, 5)

ONE: Have you ever...?

TWO: (*crossing in front of the group to stage left*) Gotta catch up.

ONE: Have you ever noticed...?

FIVE: (*crossing in front of the group to stage left*) Gotta catch up.

ONE: Have you ever noticed...?

THREE: (*crossing in front of the group to stage left*) Gotta catch up.

ONE: Have you ever noticed how much time we spend...?

FOUR: (*crossing in front of the group to stage left*) Gotta catch up.

ONE: How much time we spend...?

TWO & FIVE: (*crossing in front of the group to stage left*) Gotta catch up.

ONE: How much time we spend...?

*(Two, Three, Four, & Five move in unison to different positions on stage. As they move they repeat, "Gotta catch up." This goes on until each one has moved to seven different positions. When they have completed the seventh move, they turn to look at One. A brief pause.)*

ONE: Have you ever noticed how much time we spend "catching up?"

*(Characters cross on their lines.)*

TWO: Come on, Bobby. Come on, son. Catch up. Catch up with Daddy. That's a good boy. Wait a minute. Come back. Not so fast. Let Daddy catch up.

FIVE: Cheryl! Hi! How are you?! How's Bill? Well, I haven't seen you in ages. Let's have lunch one day this week. We need to catch up.

THREE: Why do I even bother going on vacation? Look at all this work. They just let it pile up.

Like I'm the only one who knows how to do it. I'm gone for one week and the company falls apart. I'll never catch up.

FOUR: Have you ever seen so many e-mail messages? How am I going to catch up? Delete. Delete. Delete. Delete.

FIVE: Look at these bills.

TWO: Look at this house.

THREE: Look at this yard.

FOUR: Look at this mess.

TWO: I'm never going to catch up on my leisure time.

THREE: I'll never catch up with my reading.

FOUR: My movies.

TWO: My golf.

THREE: My sewing.

FIVE: Look at these bills!

FOUR: What a mess.

THREE: My life is a mess!

TWO: I'm never going to catch up on my sleep.

THREE: I'm never going to catch up, period.

FOUR: And to top it off – I need to catch up with my giving!

THREE: You and me both, brother! What about you guys?

FIVE: (*to Four*) Are you kidding me?! Look at these bills!

TWO: (*to Four*) And if I'm going to catch up with my leisure and my sleep...

THREE: (*to One*) What about you? You've been really quite through all of this. What do you need to catch up with?

ONE: Nothing.

FIVE: Nothing?!

ONE: Nothing.

TWO: Get this guy! He doesn't need to catch up.

FOUR: He doesn't need to catch up?

TWO: That's what he says.

FIVE: Doesn't need to catch up. Hunh! You mean to tell me that you don't need to catch up with your bills?

ONE: Nope.

THREE: What about your leisurely pursuits?

ONE: Nope.

TWO: What about sleep?

ONE: Don't need to catch up.

FOUR: But what about your giving?!? Surely, you can't be caught up with that!

ONE: No, I'm all caught up.

THREE: He doesn't need to catch up. Wow. How do you do it?

FOUR: Yeah, what's the secret of your success?!

ONE: Ketchup.

FIVE: Excuse me?

ONE: Ketchup. I eat lots of ketchup.

TWO: Ketchup?

ONE: On everything. Really. It started when I was a kid. Ketchup on chicken. Ketchup on eggs. On biscuits. Sometimes I just eat the ketchup by itself. It helps me ... catch up.

FOUR: Oh, now I know you're kidding.

THREE: It's a joke?

FIVE: You think this is funny?!

TWO: Ketchup. Ketchup, he says!

ONE: Would it have made a difference if I'd told you something different? What did you expect me to say? Prayer? Time management? Prioritizing? It wouldn't have mattered. So why not...?

*(Two, Three, Four, & Five move in unison to different positions on stage. As they move they repeat, "Gotta catch up." This goes on until each one has moved to five different positions. When they have completed the fifth move, they go neutral. A brief pause.)*

ONE: Why not ketchup?