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“Jesus Thrown Everything Off Balance”:

A Summary of A Good Man Is Hard to Find

A Good Man is Hard to Find,” where she exemplifies the weaknesses of people who ignored Bible teaching and only recognized God when they needed help. Even though it was a minority Catholic region, the behavior was far from Christian.

In this 2014 story, a family was going on vacation in the family's car with a bossy grandmother who behaved like a hypocrite concerned with outward appearance and willing to reduce Christianity to a way of living that is subordinate to her attitude. She lied to the misfit, who is a mass murderer and dislikes the teachings of Christ. She told him he's a good man, flattering him, and when he didn't accept it, she told him Jesus would help him (O'Connor). Professing to be a good person and looking Christ-like in her attire was far from the truth. She talked down to people in a discriminatory way, pointing out a child of color on the roadway to her grandson saying, “Little n*****” (referring to the child with the N word), in the country him, you are my own child (688) trying to disarm him (Renner 124).

The grandmother's final remarks were, "You are one of my babies, you are my own child" (Dowell 236). With the gun pointed at her, all she did was touch his shoulder. She recognized that both she and the murderer were not good, and they both needed God's grace. With the touch on his shoulder he retaliated by shooting her (O'Connor)

According to the Renner, even though in the south where O'Connor lived in the minority Catholic region, they are hardly Christ-centered (236). Miss O'Connell identifies another mother family, this time her husband and wife who operated a multi-purpose farm, and the man's wife felt she was self-sufficient and belittling people of color just like the grandmother in *Grace and Redemption*. *A Good Man is Hard to Find* is a story that proves particularly troublesome because of O'Connor's statements (Renner 123) and I agree it seems as though O'Connor really did not have a good life (Renner) the story in some way or the other only recognizes Christ when they were in need, which they could not have met Christ.

Works Cited

1. Dowell. Bobb , *The Moment of Grace in the Fiction of Flannery O'Connor* College English Volume 27, No 3 December 1965 PP 235-239.
2. *Papers and Publications*; *Interdisciplinary journal of Undergraduate Research*, Volume 3, Article 5; 2014
3. Renner, Stanley, *Secular Meaning in "A Good Man Is Hard To Find"* *College Literature* ,Volume 9, No 2 (Spring, 1982). pp 123 - 132 December 1965 PP 235-239