

## A PRIEST WALKS INTO A LATTE BAR

by JOHN COSPER

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** A man shares with his priest how a sermon on prayer caused him to pray, leading to some unexpected results.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** This shouldn't be used with a seeker audience unless accompanied by a lesson. Use this as a lead-in to a message about praying for others. Feel free to elaborate on Eddie's really bad day. This was based on a true story, by the way.

**TIME:** 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2M, 1F

**THEME:** Prayer

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Philippians 2:5-8

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon Illustration

**CHARACTERS:**

EDDIE – A family guy

FATHER BEN – A priest (who walks into a latte bar)

LINDA – A barista

**PROPS:** A counter, coffee mugs, coffee makers, etc.

**COSTUMES:** A priest's collar, a barista uniform

**SOUND:** Three wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** A latte bar

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*The setting is a latte bar. EDDIE is at the counter. LINDA hands him his coffee.*

**LINDA:** That will be four-fifty.

*EDDIE hands LINDA a five, and she breaks his change. FATHER BEN, a priest, walks into the latte bar. LINDA hands EDDIE fifty cents.*

Fifty cents. Thank you.

**EDDIE:** Thank you.

**LINDA:** *(to FATHER BEN)* May I help you?

*EDDIE turns and recognizes FATHER BEN.*

**BEN:** I'll have a large latte, please. No cream.

**EDDIE:** Put his on my tab. I'll pay for it.

**LINDA:** Certainly.

*LINDA fixes FATHER BEN's drink.*

**BEN:** Well, that is rather nice of you, Mister?

**EDDIE:** Kurzweil. Eddie Kurzweil.

**BEN:** Oh yes, Kurzweil. You're in my parish.

**EDDIE:** Eight o'clock mass, fifth row, left side, outer aisle.

**BEN:** That's right. You married the Anderson's daughter, Joanne.

**EDDIE:** I did.

**BEN:** Well thank you very much for the coffee.

**EDDIE:** My pleasure. It's the least I could do, after what you did for me.

**BEN:** Oh? And what was that, my son?

**EDDIE:** You taught me that prayer actually works.

**BEN:** Did I?

**EDDIE:** You sure did.

*LINDA hands FATHER BEN his coffee.*

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**LINDA:** Four-fifty.

*EDDIE pays for the coffee.*

**BEN:** Interesting. I haven't spoken on prayer in several months.

**EDDIE:** Well, up until a couple weeks ago, I never prayed unless I wanted something, like a good grade on a test or the 'Skins to make the Super Bowl. Then you gave that message about how we should be looking for opportunities to bless others instead of trying to get blessings for ourselves.

**BEN:** Oh, yes. Now I'm with you.

**EDDIE:** You really got to me that morning. So the very next day, as I was driving home from work, I prayed that God would make me a blessing to my family.

**BEN:** Did you?

**EDDIE:** I went home, kissed my wife, and told her anything I could do to make her day, I was ready to do it.

**BEN:** What did she say?

**EDDIE:** Nothing. She said absolutely nothing. Instead, she pointed to the living room, where I saw my two year old son standing on the brand new carpet, pants around his ankles, poop everywhere.

**BEN:** Oh my.

**EDDIE:** I spent half an hour chasing the kid around the house, trying to get him in a bath while he tracked poop everywhere. Soon as I got him clean, I had to run out to find some place to rent a steamer—which is not easy to do after seven PM, let me tell you. I spent three hours cleaning the carpets, the furniture, the walls, only to find at the end that the dog has eaten the poopy underwear and then puked it up in the dining room. So now I gotta chase the dog down, scrub him, lock him in the garage, and start all over again with the steamer.

**BEN:** Well, the Lord certainly allowed you to bless your wife that night.

**EDDIE:** Yeah. And I learned a valuable lesson about prayer.

**BEN:** You sure did.

**EDDIE:** Yeah. I am NEVER praying that prayer again!

..... *Lights down.*

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