

A PREACHER, A BUSINESS GURU, AND A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER

by John Cosper

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A “live on stage” joke, in which three know-it-alls seek some form of guidance from the Lord... only to be bitterly disappointed, as all three are truly worldly thinkers.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 5

TOPIC: Christian Living

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Acts 2:37-39

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon starter, Illustration

CHARACTERS:

Joe—a pastor
Franklin—a business guru
Zip—a motivational speaker
Peter—the apostle
Narrator

PROPS: none

COSTUMES: Fancy dress suits; biblical attire for Peter

SOUND: Five wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Unspecified

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NARRATOR: Did you hear the one about the pastor, the business guru, and the motivational speaker who met the apostle Peter?

JOE, FRANKLIN, and ZIP enter from one side of the stage. PETER enters from the other.

JOE: Wow, the apostle Peter.

FRANKLIN: It's him! The rock, the cornerstone, Simon P himself!

ZIP: It is an honor, sir! Zip Zane, Zip Up Your Life Seminars. (*Offers a business card*) My card?

PETER: Gentlemen, thank you for coming. I know you have traveled a long way to see me.

FRANKLIN: Have we ever! Did you know that to get here we had to—

JOE: Shhh. (*Points to the audience*) We're not supposed to tell, remember?

FRANKLIN looks at the audience, then back to JOE.

FRANKLIN: Riiiiight.

PETER: The Lord has given me permission to meet with you this once, and answer one question per person.

ZIP: With follow-ups?

PETER: Uh, yes, but only if clarification is needed.

FRANKLIN: Speak the truth in love, and we won't need clarification, will we?

PETER: Ha, we'll see.

JOE: Peter, I'll tell you what I'm looking for. I'm looking for that homerun sermon. A real humdinger that'll razzle dazzle the Sunday faithful at my church...and maybe the denominational convention this summer, know what I'm sayin'?

FRANKLIN: I'm working on a new book. I write cutesy little parables like your boss used to tell that convey common-sense ideas to business types. I'm looking for a new idea and thought, "Hey! I bet that Jesus guy has some common-sense advice for bigwigs and cube dwellers." Can you clue me in on a real zinger I can share with my readers?

ZIP: I'm looking for a word from Jesus too! A new self-improvement program that'll pack the arenas...and give your boy some good PR as well. Can you help me out, Rock?