DRAMA Ministry

LINE TWO

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Frank is juggling two phonecalls at work and gets his "church world" and "business world" mixed up. Will the real Frank please stand up?!

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Frank is kind of a one-man show, in that he's the only actor seen in the performance. This can produce a blocking challenge, as the trick is to keep Frank visually interesting while he communicates with three different characters. Take full advantage of the space. Frank doesn't have to stay in his chair, and even the way he sits can punctuate his motivation. Is he leaning back comfortably? Hunched over the desk? Clutching the arms of the chair? Be sensitive to your audience. While Line Two doesn't contain any actual profanity, some of Frank's ranting may be more intense than your congregation is used to. Feel free to tone down the language.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4

TOPIC: Christian Living

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 15:7-9

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship service, Sermon starter

CHARACTERS:

FRANK JESSUP JERRY SECRETARY

PROPS: A desk, chair, files, papers, multiline office phone, newspaper, Bible

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Four wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: An office

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service@DramaMinistry.com www.DramaMinistry.com ISSN 1084-5917

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LINE TWO by Tim Bass

Lights up on FRANK. He sits at a desk covered with files, papers, typical "office" things. There is also a speaker phone with several lines (buttons) available to him. As we begin FRANK is sitting, reading the Wall Street Journal. We hear the sound of a buzzer.

FEMALE VOICE: (*Over intercom*) Frank? There's a Mr. Jessup on line one. Says it's about the Chicago requisition.

FRANK: Thanks, Denise. Put him through. (*FRANK pushes "line one" button on the speaker phone*.) Jessup! How're things going in the Windy City?

JESSUP: (*Over speaker phone*) Well, to tell you the truth, Frank, things aren't going very well up here. Blandings says he thinks he'd like to sit on it awhile. Give it some more thought before selling the property. Run it through some other channels.

FRANK: What!?! That lousy two-timing backstabbing jerk! I'll rip his heart out and shove it down his "other channels"! What does he think he's doing? You do whatever you...

FEMALE VOICE: (*Over intercom*) Frank, there's a Jerry Wilson on line two. He says you asked him to call you this morning about some kind of something you were going to do at church next Sunday? I didn't know you went to church, Frank. Is this guy pulling my leg? Want me to get rid of him?

FRANK: Uh, no, don't uh...just...hang on a minute, Jessup; I'll be right back with you! Yeah, uh, Denise, it's fine, go ahead and put him through. I'll see what he wants.

FRANK pushes "hold" for line one and presses line two.

JERRY: (Over speaker phone) Frank?

FRANK: Jer-ry! How ya doing, brother?

JERRY: Doing great, Frank. It's a great day to worship the Lord!

FRANK: Amen!

JERRY: Hope I didn't catch you at a bad time!

FRANK: Bad time? No! Of course not! Just trying to catch up on some reading and working on a deal I'm putting together up in Chicago.

JERRY: Well, you sound like you've got your hands full. Maybe I should call back.