

## THE POLITICIANS

by John Cosper

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** A couple on a date discusses the dishonesty of politicians, marveling at how people put up with such dishonesty. Then a political ad announcer reveals their dark secrets to one another, exposing both of them as liars too.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** Last night, I saw a politician give a speech. Afterward, one of the news channels went through the speech, analyzing when he was telling the truth, half-truths, or lies. There was no real condemnation for the deception and lies. Just acceptance. What are we teaching our children by continuing to elect people from both parties who lie? What are we teaching them by accepting and allowing for lies and deception in our own lives?

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 4

**TOPIC:** Relationships, Dishonesty

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Ephesians 4:15, Ephesians 4:25

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Seeker Service, Singles Service, Sermon Starter

**CHARACTERS:**

Melinda & Gabe -- young adults on a date

Mitch -- a slimy politician

Voice -- a political ad announcer

**PROPS:** Tables and chairs

**COSTUMES:** Nice clothes for the daters. Suit for Mitch.

**SOUND:** Three wireless microphones; off camera microphone; negative political ad music

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Restaurant

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*MELINDA and GABE sit at a table, enjoying a private dinner. MITCH enters. He sees them, smiles, and walks over.*

**MITCH:** Hello, folks. Sorry to interrupt your quiet dinner, but I wanted to introduce myself. I'm Mitch Higgins, and I'm running for Congress. I've been a respected business leader in our community for twenty five years, and I think it's time we had a change in Washington. Here's a little literature you can read later. Good to meet you two.

**MELINDA:** Thank you.

*MITCH exits.*

Can you believe that guy? I can't believe he's showing his face in public.

**GABE:** Who was that?

**MELINDA:** Mitch Higgins. He's been running a smear campaign for months against Senator Hogan. Then yesterday, the newspaper comes out with this story showing all the dirty deals he's made. Sending jobs to India, bribing transportation officials. He's a total slimeball.

**GABE:** Sorry I missed that. I guess I need to start catching up, now that I'm a local.

**MELINDA:** Of course Hogan's a huge crook, too. And saddest part is, we'll elect one or the other of them, because we just accept it.

**GABE:** I never understood that. Why do we keep electing people we know are liars? We should demand better. I know I do.

**MELINDA:** Professionally or personally?

**GABE:** Both. You can't build a business if you don't trust your partners. And you can't have intimacy if there's no trust.

**MELINDA:** My, my. Two hours into our date, we're talking intimacy.

**GABE:** Look, you're not here for a fling, and neither am I. I'm above all that. I came out here for a fresh start. No more parties. I want to go to the orchestra, read good books.

**MELINDA:** Bridges of Madison County?

**GABE:** For the fourth time yes.

**MELINDA:** You know, there are other great books out there.

**GABE:** I can't help it. I love the romance of it. It's... it's who I really am.