

WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVE?

by John Cosper

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A talk-show host uncovers the motives behind why people accept Christ, finding more people who did it for selfish reasons rather than for love of who Christ is.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: To avoid a dramatic 'lag' between the introduction of characters, it may be wise to have all of the guests already on stage and seated in a daytime talk-show type format around the host, and simply introduce them at the appropriate time.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 6

TOPIC: Salvation

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 19:16-30

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Bible Study

CHARACTERS:

TALK-SHOW HOST
ROY— A reluctant missionary doctor
EMMA— A single and desperate woman
BOB— A businessman
HANNAH— A bitter woman
ANGELA— A grateful believer

PROPS: Chairs, desk

COSTUMES: Modern dress

SOUND: Six cordless mics or three standing mics

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Talk-show set

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The stage is set like a late-night talk show, with plenty of seats for the guests. The HOST sits behind a desk.

HOST: It's been going on for more than two thousand years. And it continues to this day. What am I talking about? I'm talking about becoming what is commonly called a "Christian." Since the days of the New Testament, people have gone to a church, or just to their knees, and asked Jesus to become Lord of their life. Today, we're asking the big questions. Why did you do it? Why did you believe? And do you still believe in him now? Please welcome my first guest, Roy Black.

ROY enters and sits nearest the HOST.

HOST: Roy, what's your story? How did you get saved?

ROY: Well, I grew up in the church, went to Sunday school, always listening but never really believing until one day in college. It was the day of the big anatomy final, and I hadn't studied. So I got on my knees and I told God if he helped me pass, I'd give him my life and even go on the mission field.

HOST: So what happened? Did you pass?

ROY: Yeah, I passed alright. Then next thing I knew, I was on my way to Africa to deliver medical exams in the jungle, which is not what I had in mind. I wanted to be a plastic surgeon in Beverly Hills. Is that so wrong?

HOST: Well, I'll leave that to you and God. Let's bring out our next guest, Emma Brown.

ROY moves down the couch. EMMA enters and sits nearest the HOST.

HOST: Emma, why did you become a Christian?

EMMA: Well, you see, I was never raised in the church and never had any desire to go until I went one time with my best friend Caroline and met this guy named Gabe. He was such a sweetie, and the moment I laid eyes on him, I knew we would one day have the most beautiful children in the world. But Gabe was a devout Christian, and since he would only date other Christian girls, well, I knew that God was just wanting me to accept him as my Savior so we could hook up.

HOST: So you accepted Christ, and how did things turn out with Gabe?

EMMA: Well, one day we went out to a coffee shop to "talk about the Bible," and Gabe leaned over and asked if he could ask me something. I told him he could ask me anything he wanted.

HOST: And what did he ask?