

3. THE CHURCH GUY

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(Required: Three puppets, a few articles of clothing)

(Ollie enters with Olive. Olive has armful of clothes)

OLLIE: I think that's just about all we have.

OLIVE: We really appreciate this. You don't know how much the missionaries can use these clothes.

HERB: **(Runs in)** Ollie, I'm in a hurry. Where's my coat?

OLLIE: In the closet. Where're you going?

HERB: To church. I'm running late.

OLLIE: But you went to church last night and the night before that. And the morning before that.

HERB: And I've got two services to get to tonight. **(Sees Olive)** Hey, that's my old shirt.

OLLIE: How come you're going to church so much?

HERB: I want God to be really impressed. What's she doing with my old shirt?

OLLIE: She's collecting things for the missionary closet at church. I gave her some old clothes.

HERB: Ollie, I'm trying to *get* stuff and you're giving it away! I want to *keep* my stuff.

OLLIE: Actually, that's an old shirt of mine that you borrowed a long time ago and never gave back.

HERB: Oh. Well, as long as none of *my* stuff is in there.

OLLIE: Olive, I'll let you know when I have some more things I can give you.

OLIVE: Okay. Thank you. **(Exits)**

HERB: Let's see, I need to get my coat, my pillow for the pew, those special glasses that make it look like my eyes are open. Oh, I suppose they expect me to have my Bible again, and I'd better fill out an offering envelope so it looks like I'm actually giving something.

OLLIE: Herb, what's this all about?

HERB: Well, I want to get into heaven, so I'm going to church as often as I can. That way God will really be impressed. You know, church would sure be a lot less boring if they made crossword puzzle books that fit inside your Bible. You think God would care if I took some earphones and listened to the radio?

OLLIE: Herb, you are so superficial.

HERB: Just on the surface.

OLLIE: Herb, you don't go to church to impress God.

HERB: I do.

OLLIE: God does not do things for people just because they go to church.

HERB: Then why in the world would anyone go to church?

OLLIE: To enjoy the fellowship of other Christians.

HERB: Why would they sit through those sermons?

OLLIE: To learn about the Lord, his commands and his promises, so they will know how to find the joy that God promises to everyone who believes.

HERB: And why would they sing all those songs?

OLLIE: To worship the one they love.

HERB: And why would they put money in those irritating offerings?

OLLIE: Because they are so thankful for all the things God gives them that they want to return a portion to the Lord.

HERB: Then how are you supposed to get to heaven?

OLLIE: You just believe in Jesus.

HERB: That's all? And I don't have to go to church?

OLLIE: When you believe in Jesus, you don't *have* to go to church. You will *want* to. Let's go to church together and meet some people who *really* believe in Jesus. **(They exit)**