

“DISHONEST GIVING”

By
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Synopsis

Satan (who happens to be in church today) tries to persuade a church member to lie about the status of her giving (tithing). This is a humorous yet convicting presentation that addresses one of the most sensitive subjects in today's church: dishonest giving.

Scripture

Acts 5:3-4

Ministry Lesson:

The tragic sin of Ananias and Sapphira was not the amount of the offering they gave, but lying to God and God's people. They indicated they were giving the full amount earned from the property they sold, when they were not. Today, believers are still guilty of this great sin. Some church members indicate they are tithing when they are not. They are not only lying to men, but they are lying to God!

Ministry Focus:

Tithing/Giving

Genre: Comedy

Cast

- Mary
- Angel (male or female)
- Satan (male)
- Church usher (youth or adult)

Costumes:

- Mary in normal church attire
- Usher in standard church usher uniform
- Angel in all white with a halo around head
- Satan in all black with 2 little horns on his head
(*you can get these little props at any costume store*)

Time: 8 mins.

Props:

Mary - bible, purse with pad, pen, cell phone, and checkbook
Satan - plastic bag of candy, cell phone, sunglasses
Usher - church programs, fans, and donation envelopes
Three (3) chairs side-by-side (Mary will be seated in the middle)

DISHONEST GIVING

INTERIOR - CHURCH SANCTUARY

CHURCH USHER IS STANDING AT THE ENTRANCE TO STAGE HOLDING CHURCH PROGRAMS, FANS, AND GIVING ENVELOPES. ANGEL AND MARY ENTER.

ANGEL

C'mon Mary, church has already started.
You don't want to miss the praise and
worship time.

MARY

Oh my goodness, I didn't know it was so
late.

MARY IS GREETED BY THE USHER. THE USHER GIVES MARY A PROGRAM AND A FAN. SHE TAKES THE CENTER SEAT. THE ANGEL SITS TO THE RIGHT OF MARY.

MARY (CONT'D)

(fanning) Whew. Thank God you woke me
up this morning. I almost missed the
service.

ANGEL

Not a problem. You know I'm always here
for you.

MARY ACKNOWLEDGES A FELLOW CHURCH MEMBER

MARY

Oh Hi Sister Bennett. I love that
dress. (to Angel) She's so sweet.

ANGEL

Yes she is.

MARY

I just love this church. Everyone is so
nice and friendly.

SATAN RUSHES IN, WEARING SUNGLASSES

SATAN

Oh Man, what time is it? I hope I'm not too late.

SATAN IS GREETED BY THE USHER

USHER

Good morning. Welcome to [name of church].

USHER OFFERS SATAN A FAN

SATAN

Oh I don't need it. I like it hot.

SATAN REMOVES SUNGLASSES AS HE NOTICES MARY.

SATAN (CONT'D)

Well, Sister Mary. I'm surprised you tried to leave me home this morning.

ANGEL

(sarcastically) We were in a hurry and we didn't have time to wait on you!

SATAN

I wasn't talking to you.

ANGEL

Well, I'm talking to you!

SATAN AND ANGEL BEGIN TO ARGUE.

MARY

(interrupts) Do you mind! I'm trying to enjoy the service.

ANGEL AND SATAN RELUCTANTLY STOP ARGUING. THEY SIT DOWN.

ANGEL

You're right Mary. Pastor [name of your Pastor] is about to start preaching.

MARY AND THE ANGEL ATTENTIVELY SIT UP. MARY TAKES OUT A PAD AND PEN TO TAKE NOTES OF THE SERMON. SATAN SLUMPS DOWN IN HIS SEAT (MARY'S LEFT) AND BECOMES FIDGETY. HE STARTS TO DO SEVERAL THINGS TO ANNOY MARY:

FIRSTG, HE TAKES OUT A PLASTIC BAG OF HARD CANDY AND MAKES AS MUCH NOISE AS POSSIBLE LOOKING FOR A SPECIFIC PIECE.

SATAN

Mary, I have some Halloween candy
left...want some?

ANGEL

(to Satan) Will you stop making all
that noise rummaging through that bag!
You're not supposed to eat in church.

SATAN

(fires back) Well, I'm hungry!

ANGEL

Well, go somewhere and eat!

SATAN RELUCTANTLY CLOSES THE CANDY BAG. BECOMES RESTLESS AGAIN.

SATAN

(nudges Mary) Hey Mary, look at that
dress Sister Bennett is wearing. Didn't
she wear that last Sunday?

MARY

(looking) Oh really! You know I thought
something looked familiar.

SATAN

And look at Brother Fitzgerald...

ANGEL

(To Satan) Be quiet and stop trying to
stir up trouble. Mary, don't listen to
him. Let's just focus on the Lord.

MARY

You're so right.

SATAN SARCASTICALLY MIMICS THE ANGEL. SATAN TURNS ASIDE AND PULLS OUT HIS CELL PHONE. HE TYPES A TEXT MESSAGE TO MARY.

MARY'S PHONE BEGINS TO BUZZ.

MARY (CONT'D)

Is that my cell phone buzzin'? (*takes her phone from her purse*) Who would send me a text message during church service?

ANGEL

(*looking over at Satan*). Ummm. Oh let me see that. (*takes phone from Mary*)
You just enjoy the service.

ANGEL CALLS THE NUMBER. SATAN'S PHONE RINGS AND HE ANSWERS. MARY IS DEEP INTO THE SERMON AS THEY ARE TALKING.

SATAN

Hello.

ANGEL

Look, I told you to stop bothering Mary.

SATAN

I'm bored.

ANGEL

Why don't you leave these people alone?
You don't belong in church.

SATAN

Just because people join [name of church] doesn't mean I'm gonna leave them alone. Last week, I hooked up with Deacon [name of deacon]. This week, I'm here for Mary.

ANGEL

Well forget it! The service is just about over now...so you can leave!

SATAN

Leave! Oh no, it's offering time. You know what they say, "this is the part of the service where we can all participate; and I'm gonna to participate! (hangs up phone)

ANGEL AND SATAN TURN FORWARD IN THEIR SEAT.

- End of Preview -

Satan is not finished with Mary. He know that money is the root of all evil and now he's going to entice Mary to do the unthinkable; to lie to God. Will Mary give in to Satan's tactics?
