“ACTS SYNDROME”

By
Terry Stanley

Synopsis
Pastor Seymour says the word “Act” in every word that begins with the letter “A”. Concerned over this change in her husband’s speech, his wife takes him to a doctor. Pastor Seymour is suffering from Acts Syndrome...a condition onset by preaching only from the Book of Acts for an extended period of time.

Scripture
The Book of Acts

Ministry Lesson:
This is a simple comedy sketch that can be used as a ice breaker at a ministers’ conference, workshop, or banquet. It pokes a little fun at the pastoral ministry.

Ministry Focus:
Preaching

Genre: Comedy

Cast
- Pastor Seymour
- Wife
- Doctor

Costumes:
- Pastor Seymour is wearing an medical exam gown.
- Wife is wearing church attire.
- Doctor is wearing a white doctor’s robe.

Time: 10 mins.

Props:
Chairs for Pastor and Wife
Clip board and papers for the Doctor
Other props to make the scenery look like an medical exam room

Director’s note:
Be sure the Pastor emphasizes the word “act” when stating the words in the script.

Copyright © 10/2011, Terry Stanley

ACTS SYNDROME

INTERIOR - DOCTOR'S EXAM ROOM

Stage Setup: Examination room, long bed or just a chair.

PASTOR AND HIS WIFE WALK INTO THE EXAM ROOM. PASTOR IS ALREADY WEARING HIS EXAM GOWN.

WIFE

C'mon, sit down Honey.

PASTOR

I hate these examination rooms, they're "act"ways cold.

WIFE

Well, the worst is over. The doctor is reviewing the results of your tests. He should be back any minute.

PASTOR

I should be home working on my sermon for Sunday. I'm up to chapter 20 in my series on the Book of Acts.

THE WIFE TRIES TO BE SUPPORTIVE BUT SHE (AND THE REST OF THE CHURCH) IS WORN OUT FROM PASTOR'S SERMONS FROM ACTS.

WIFE

(Halfheartedly) Yes, dear, I know.

PASTOR

Look, I don't know why you're worried. I'm "act"right.

WIFE

I know, but you've been talking so strange lately. I really think something is wrong.

PASTOR

What do you mean?

 Copyright © 10/2011, Terry Stanley

WIFE

(Hesitant) Well Honey, you've been saying the word "Act" a lot.

PASTOR

(Laughing) C'mon, that's "act"ually silly.

WIFE

No Honey, you have to listen to yourself. You say "act" for every word that begins with the letter "a". Don't you think that's strange?

PASTOR

I don't do that!

WIFE

Okay...where did we vacation last month?

PASTOR

"Act"ruba.

WIFE

Names 2 states that begin with the letter "A".

PASTOR

"Act"kansas...and "Act"labama.

WIFE

It's Alabama not "Act"labama!

PASTOR

(Shocked) Did I just say "Act-labama"? Honey, you're right!

THE DOCTOR ENTERS. HE HAS A CLIP BOARD WITH SEVERAL PAPERS ATTACHED.

 Copyright © 10/2011, Terry Stanley

DOCTOR

Good morning. (to Pastor) So, how are you feeling today?

PASTOR

Okay...I guess.

DOCTOR

Well, I've checked the results of your tests. Your EKG results looks normal and your blood work is good. I see nothing physically wrong. So, what's the problem?

WIFE

He keeps saying the word "Act". It's like the word is stuck in his brain.

PASTOR

You know Doc, I have to "act"mit, this is a little "act"normal.

DOCTOR

Oh wow, that is strange. Did you hit your head recently?

PASTOR

No, I haven't been in an "act"cident.

DOCTOR

Have you had an allergic reaction to anything.

PASTOR

No, I don't have any "act"lergies.

DOCTOR

Hmmm. What kind of work do you do?

PASTOR

I'm the Pastor of the 1st Corinthians Church of the Heathens in Christ.

 Copyright © 10/2011, Terry Stanley

DOCTOR

Oh that's great.

PASTOR

Been preaching the word for 10 years. I'm currently doing a series from the Book of Acts.

DOCTOR

Really, and how long have you been preaching from Acts?

PASTOR

Oh, just a couple of months.

WIFE

It's been a year and a half!

PASTOR

Has it been that long?

DOCTOR

(Becomes concerned) A year and a half...that's quite a long time.

PASTOR

So what's wrong with that?

DOCTOR

Well, tell me, did you preach from the Book of Acts on Christmas Sunday?

PASTOR

Yes. I was on chapter 12 when Jesus was born.

DOCTOR

Did you preach from the Book of Acts on Easter Sunday?

PASTOR

Why yes. I believe I was on chapter 15 when Jesus rose. Hallelujah!

 Copyright © 10/2011, Terry Stanley

DOCTOR LOWERS AND SHAKES HIS HEAD. PASTOR AND WIFE SENSE SOMETHING IS WRONG.

WIFE

(Afraid to ask) Doctor, what are you getting at? (Clenches her husband's hand)

DOCTOR

Pastor Seymour, I think you may be suffering from...Acts Syndrome.

PASTOR

Acts Syndrome! What's that?

DOCTOR

It's a mental phenomenon in which the brain carries over the preached text into your regular day-to-day activities.

PASTOR

I've never heard of this before.

DOCTOR

Oh, it's fairly common. At least 1 in 5 Pastors suffer from this condition. Almost all of the TV Evangelists.

WIFE

(Afraid) Honey...and you were thinking about broadcasting your sermons. (She begins to cry).

PASTOR CONFORMS HIS WIFE

PASTOR

What causes it?

DOCTOR

Prolonged continuous preaching from one book of the bible.

 Copyright © 10/2011, Terry Stanley

PASTOR

I've never heard of other Pastors speaking like me.

DOCTOR

The effects are different for everyone. I treated a Pastor last year that would count aloud the number of people he met everyday.

PASTOR

What was he suffering from?

DOCTOR

The Book of Numbers Syndrome.

****
- End of Preview -

There must be a cure for Pastors with this condition, find out at the end of this hilarious sketch.
****

 Copyright © 10/2011, Terry Stanley