



NOW SERVING FRESH DRAMA

# Not Like That Pharisee

By Michael Leathers

## **CAST: 2 males**

**Mr. Wright:** Smug teacher, 30s to 50s, of a church Bible study class.

**Tyler:** First-time visitor, mid-20s.

## **RUN TIME: 6 minutes**

## **PROPS**

- Two notebooks
- Two pens
- Bible

## **STORY**

Mr. Wright is getting ready to teach his Bible study class at church when a visitor, Tyler, walks in at the last minute. Not only does Tyler have a hard time adapting to Mr. Wright's peculiar classroom etiquette, but also his unique interpretation of Jesus' parable about the Pharisee and the tax collector.

## **THEMES**

Self-Righteousness. Pride. Humility.

## **SCRIPTURE**

Luke 18: 9-14

# Not Like That Pharisee

(We're in a church Bible study class on Sunday morning. MR. WRIGHT is busy at his lectern, scribbling final thoughts on his notes for the lesson. He's the only one in the room until TYLER hurries in and takes a chair near the teacher. MR. WRIGHT takes no notice of him until it's time to start class)

MR. WRIGHT

Good morning. My name is Mr. Wright. It's so good to see all of you here this morning.

(TYLER looks around to see if he's missed anyone. He's the only class member)

TYLER

I'm sorry, but we're the only ones here.

MR. WRIGHT

Please. Please. So everyone gets their turn, it's important that we raise our hands. We don't want chaos, do we?

(TYLER slowly raises his hand)

MR. WRIGHT (cont'd)

Yes, yes, the young man in the front. You first.

TYLER

We're the only ones here. Still.

MR. WRIGHT

I start Bible study promptly at nine-thirty. I never reward stragglers by delaying the lesson.

TYLER

I don't mind waiting a few minutes.

MR. WRIGHT

That wouldn't be fair to the rest of you, would it now? They'll have to catch up.

TYLER

It'd be nice to meet a few people before we started.

MR. WRIGHT

Fellowship always follows the lesson – if there's time. And we always begin class by recognizing our visitors. Do we have anyone here for the first time today?

TYLER

Actually, this is my –

MR. WRIGHT

-- Let's raise our hands.

(TYLER raises his hand)

MR. WRIGHT (cont'd)

One moment please.

(Writes a note in his notebook with a pen. Says under his breath)

Doesn't raise hands.

(Looking back up to acknowledge TYLER's raised hand)

Yes?

TYLER

Did you just make a note about me?

MR. WRIGHT

That's really not important. We're recognizing visitors right now.

TYLER

Right. Well, I'm a visitor. Tyler Greer. I moved here last week. I transferred here from –

MR. WRIGHT

-- Wonderful. Thank you for sharing. Glad to have you here today, Tyler. Now, do we have any other visitors?

(Surveying the empty class)

MR. WRIGHT (cont'd)

Anybody else? Anyone at all? Don't be shy.

(Opening his Bible)

All right then. In that case, let's begin our lesson. Everyone open your Bibles to the Gospel of Luke. Who would like to begin reading from chapter eighteen, verse nine?

(Looking for a volunteer)

Tyler?

TYLER

I didn't bring a Bible.

MR. WRIGHT

Now, Tyler, why do you think we call it Bible study? You wouldn't go to a car wash without taking your car, would you now?

TYLER

Sorry, I was in a –

MR. WRIGHT

-- Apology accepted. Give me just a moment.

(Writes another note and says under his breath)

Doesn't bring Bible.

TYLER

You're doing it again. Stop writing notes about me. You're treating me like I'm some disobedient school boy.

**END OF SAMPLE**

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