

COMMUNICATION

By Rod

This sketch explores the difference between 'saying one's prayers' and actually communicating with God in prayer. To highlight this, one character is using the old version of the Lord's Prayer to set against the more familiar way in which the other is talking through his problems with God. [Matt 6 vv 9-13, Luke 11 vv 2-4]

CAST

Formal prayer *Could be male or female. Aim to be very formal and impersonal.*
Informal prayer *Male as written but could be female with some change of temptations!*

FP Our Father,

IP Hi Dad.

FP Which art in Heaven.

IP It's so good to be able to talk to you – even though you're in Heaven and I'm down here – on Earth.

FP Hallowed be thy name.

IP You're great. You're awesome. I can't begin to tell you how great you are.

FP Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done
 On Earth as it is in Heaven.

IP I really wish things were better here. We seem further away from your 'Peace on Earth' than ever; what with all the fighting in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Palestine and everywhere really. The world's gone even crazier than ever. I can't wait for your Second Coming. That'll be fantastic.

FP Give us this day our daily bread.

IP Thank you so much that I have plenty of food, money and shelter. I don't take it for granted you know – and I am grateful. Help me to be more generous to those who don't have such things.

FP And forgive us our trespasses.

IP I'm really sorry for what I said to my colleague at work today. I've been trying to be a good witness for you in the office but I really let you down.

I'm sorry. It was unforgivable. *[Pause]* What's that? It is forgivable? Oh thank you, thank you! That's a weight off my mind I can tell you. Oh I feel so much better.

FP As we forgive those who trespass against us.

IP I guess that means you want me to forgive him for what he said to me? Do you know - I think I can? I'll go and speak to him first thing tomorrow morning and clear the air between us. Talking to you has really helped. Thanks.

FP Lead us not into temptation.
But deliver us from evil.

IP While we're discussing the office – could I mention another matter? That girl who works in the typing pool. You know. The good-looking one – the one who always wears a low-cut blouse. *[Cheerfully]* You'd noticed her too. *[More hesitantly]* Ah, you'd noticed my infatuation with her how I find any excuse to talk to her. Yes, OK,OK – I get the message. Well the problem is – I can't seem to help myself. I really love my wife – honestly. I know I'm making a fool of myself – and I'm letting you down. Can you help me? Please. Help me to avoid her so that I'm not tempted. You will? Great, thanks.

FP For thine is the kingdom,
The power and the glory.

IP It's been so good talking to you. It has helped me to get life into perspective – your perspective. To see things from your point of view. It's helped me to refocus my Christian life. And to remember that you have all the power I need to overcome the problems I face in day to day living. With your help I really can hope to make a difference – to show others what a great God and friend you are.

FP For ever and ever.

IP What's even better is that I know you'll be here tomorrow, and the next day, and the next. Ready to listen – and help. However much I mess things up. That's a real comfort.

FP Amen.

IP Bye. I'll be in touch again soon. You can count on it.