

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

By Rod

This sketch could be used to illustrate how we are sometimes too busy to listen to Jesus and the way he wishes to express his love for us. This could be used for non-believers, showing how they are sometimes too wrapped up in the world to hear Jesus' message: or for believers, showing how they are often too busy to spend quality time in prayer, meditation, bible reading, etc, listening to Him.

CAST

Waiter(or waitress) *Male (or female)*

James *Male. Represents Jesus, if analogies are drawn.*

Polly *Female*

Meg *Female - friend of Polly. (Could easily be turned into a male character if necessary with suitable change of name.)*

The scene is a restaurant. Waiter is on stage. Enter James followed by Polly, who is looking at her phone as if receiving a text message.

Waiter Good evening, sir. Is it just the two of you?

James Yes, that's right, and we'd like a quiet table please; we want to be able to chat undisturbed.

Waiter Certainly, sir. Would that one over by the window suit you?

Polly You must be joking!

Waiter *[Taken aback]* I'm sorry, madam ... there are other tables if you prefer.

Polly What? Oh, no, not you – I've just had a text from my flatmate; she's lost her car-keys again. The idiot – she's always doing it.

James *[To waiter, apologising for Polly]* I'm sorry about that. That table's perfect. Thank you.

Waiter Right, follow me. *[They walk to table. Polly is texting as she goes]*

Polly *[Typing in text]* LOOK ON YOUR BEDSIDE TABLE YOU PRAT!

Waiter *[Polly and Stella sit. Waiter hands menus]* Here are the menus.

James Thank you.

Waiter Can I get you a drink at all - while you decide what to order?

James Yes, I'll have a beer please. Do you have Kronenberg?

Waiter Yes, sir, certainly: and for you, madam?

Polly *[Loud exclamation. With 'phone to ear.]* Stella!

Waiter No, madam, I'm afraid not – only Kronenberg, Budweiser or Fosters.

Polly *['phone to ear.]* You are hopeless!

Waiter I'm very sorry, madam, but... er ...

Polly Oh, no, not you - it's my flatmate, Stella, she's found her car-keys - on the bedside table would you believe! *[To 'phone]* I'm talking to the waiter. *[To waiter]* I'll have a sparkling water, please. *[Waiter leaves. To 'phone.]* Yes Stella, I'm in a restaurant – with James. Yes, he says he wants a cosy chat - just the two of us! So I'd better hang up. Bye. *[Puts `phone down on table]*

James Well this is nice. We haven't really had the chance to be alone together for a while.

Polly No, life's been pretty hectic one way and another.

James Only there was something I wanted to say to you.

Polly *[Leaning close]* Oh yes, James, what was that?

Waiter *[With drinks]* Here are your drinks: a sparkling water for you, madam; and beer for you, sir.

James Thank you.

Waiter Are you ready to order?

James *[Looking at Polly to confirm she is also ready]* Yes, I think so: Polly?

Polly Yes, I'll have the chicken salad, please.

Waiter Certainly, madam. *[Polly picks up `phone to look at received `photo]*

James And I'll have a large beefburger with chips, and a side order of onion rings.

Polly *[Looking at `phone]* Err, that's disgusting!

James I'm sorry, Polly, I realise you like to eat healthily but I fancy a big blow out tonight ...

Polly Oh, no – it's one of my workmates, he's sent me a photo of himself pulling the most disgusting face; it's gross. *[James signals to waiter that order is complete. Waiter leaves]* The things people send over their mobiles.

James Yes, they do, don't they. *[Pause]* Polly, is there any chance you could switch your phone off?

Polly It's on silent; it won't disturb anyone in the restaurant. Don't worry.

James No, but it will disturb us – if you keep receiving messages; and I really would like to be able to talk to you properly – without interruptions.

Polly Point taken. *[Switches phone off but leaves it on table]* Mobile telephone switched off; you now have my full attention.

James Great, thanks.

Polly *[Leaning across]* So, James, what is it you want to talk about?

James Well, I really want to talk to you about us.

Polly Us?

James Yes, our relationship together. I feel it's important to ...

Polly *[Enter Meg, who talks to waiter. Polly Interrupts James and leaps up]* Oh, look who's just come in; it's Meg! I must say "Hello".

James Well, actually, I'd rather like it for us to be alone

Polly *[Hailing friend across restaurant]* Meg! Hi!

Meg *[Seeing Polly and walking over]* Oh, hello, Polly. Hello, James. Great to see you.

Polly I would ask you to join us, but James is keen for us to be alone – just the two of us.

Meg Oh don't worry about me. I wouldn't want to gatecrash. Anyway, I'm waiting for a group of friends to join me *[Noticing Polly's phone]* Hey – is that a new phone?

Polly Yes, I got it last week. *[Picks it up. Turns it on to show functions to Meg]* I can send texts, photos and even videoclips: yesterday I sent JoJo a video of me eating breakfast.

Meg Wow, that's amazing! I've got a new `phone too. *[Produces `phone and shows to Polly]* I can even use it as a radio and MP3 player. It's brilliant. *[James gets up, unnoticed by the others, and goes across to speak to waiter. Meg, without thinking, sits down in James' place as the two discuss their `phones]*

Polly Does yours have polyphonic ringtones?

Meg Yes, I went on the Internet and I downloaded *It's a Mad World*. You can get any tune you want.

Polly I must try that; I'll see if I can get the one sung by Bill Nighy in that film.

Meg What film?

Polly You know, the one with Hugh Grant. *[Her `phone rings – it is James, who can be seen using the restaurant telephone]* Hello.

James I'm in love actually.

Polly *[To Meg]* That's it – *Love Actually*. *[Suddenly realising – now speaking into `phone]* What did you say? Is it you James?

James Yes Polly, it's me. I said, "I'm in love actually – with you".

THE END