

JOE BLOGGS

By Rod

READING:

JAMES 4 v 1

DRAMA

JF-R *[Posh accent]* Excuse me, are you Joe Bloggs?

JB *[Mocking JF-R's accent]* "Excuse me, are you Joe Bloggs". *[Reverting to his normal North London accent]* What are you – some kind of ponce?

JF-R *[Bemused]* I'm sorry? Are you Joe Bloggs?

JB Who wants to know?

JF-R Well I do actually.

JB *[Again mocking accent]* "Well I do actually". And who might you be?

JF-R Who I am is not important. What is important is whether you are Joe Bloggs.

JB I might be.

JF-R What do you mean – you "might be"? Are you or are you not Joe Bloggs?

JB It depends.

JF-R It depends on what?

JB On who wants to know.

JF-R I've told you – that's not important.

JB It's important to me, mate.

JF-R OK. My name is John Farrington-Smyth but that's irrelevant.

JB *[Interrupting]* Oh, John Farrington-Smyth is it. I said you were a ponce. I bet you went to one of them Public Schools.

JF-R Well, yes, I did; Charterhouse actually.

JB Never `eard of it: but I hate all Public schoolboys. In fact, if I meet one I usually duff `im up good and proper.

JF-R Er. Ah. I see. Well perhaps I should say that I have an important letter to deliver to Joe Bloggs.

JB What sort of letter?

JF-R I am afraid I am not at liberty to say until I know I am speaking to Joe Bloggs. The letter has to be delivered in person.

JB Why 'in person'?

JF-R Because it's personal.

JB *[Getting angry]* Don't get clever with me, John Farrington Hyphen Smyth.

JF-R Well, are you or are you not Joe Bloggs?

JB *[Pause. Pointing accusingly]* I know who you are. You're one of those solicitors and you've got a court summons to deliver.

JF-R I can assure that's not the case.

JB I wasn't born yesterday, matey. You're not going to catch me. You're not going to deliver that letter to Joe Bloggs.

JF-R Why not?

JB Because I'm going to beat you up just like I do all Public school namby pamby ponces.

[JB attacks JF-R and knocks him unconscious. He searches JF-R and finds the letter. He goes to tear it up but pauses. He looks at the envelope, opens it and reads....]

Dear Joe Bloggs. Congratulations. You have won £500 000 in our spot the ball competition.

[He looks up.]

Well stone me.

READING:

PHILIPPIANS 4 vv 6 & 7

TALK:

On Monday we met Joe Bloggs. Joe Bloggs was defensive – yes, defensive.

He appeared aggressive. He announced that he hated Public schoolboys. He beat up John Farringdon-Smyth. But the reason he did these things was because he was on the defensive.

He was not keen to admit to being Joe Bloggs. He was suspicious. He was anxious. He was afraid.

As a result he turned what could have been a happy occasion – the receipt of good news in the form of a £500 000 win – into a time of conflict and aggression.

Well, are we like Joe Bloggs? So defensive and anxious on the inside that we appear hard and aggressive on the outside.

Do we have a hard exterior to cover up our soft centre?

A soft centre which is anxious at times – anxious about work, anxious about failure, anxious about what other people think of us, anxious about being loved. A soft centre which is insecure, full of conflicting thoughts, full of self doubt.

Is it not true that many of the conflicts we have with the world – with our teachers, with our parents, with our friends – stem from the many conflicts raging inside us?

Well the good news is that God understands, knows all this and wants to help. He wants to deal with these inner conflicts and help us to find peace. Because once we are at peace with God and at peace with ourselves – we will find it easier to live at peace with the world.

HYMN: Now we sing as a prayer HYMN 371: “Make me a channel of your peace”.