

NOCTURNAL INSTINCTS

By Rod

This sketch illustrates 1 Thessalonians 5 vv 1-11 which encourages us to be awake and walk in the light, but could be used to illustrate the idea of walking in the light of Jesus.

CAST

Susie A new 'mum'.

John An older acquaintance of Susie. They know each other, but not that well.

[Enter Susie pushing pram. Enter John from the other direction.]

John Hello there Susie. I haven't seen you for a while. How are you?

Susie Oh, hi there, John. Not too bad thanks. A bit tired. You know.. *[Points to baby in pram]*

J Of course. So this is the little bundle. How old now?

S Three months tomorrow.

J Really. And does the little bundle have a name?

S Yes, Tuesday. Her full names are "Tuesday May Paris".

J What unusual names. They're lovely, of course, - for a girl. Er.. I assume she is a girl.

S Yes, and her names remind us where and when she came into being.

J Oh? Tuesday ... in May ... in Paris. Of course... I get it now. How romantic. Mind you it's just as well we didn't take that line... otherwise our daughter would be called "Friday November Scunthorpe".

S Right. Mind you Tuesday is lucky she's a girl; if she'd been a boy Will was determined to name him "Alex Ronaldo Rooney".

J He's a big Man United fan is he, your husband?

S Yes, I'm afraid so; and he worships Alex Ferguson.

J Still, it could be worse. He could be an Arsenal fan. Then he'd have wanted to name him "Arsene Fabregas Van Persie". Think of that.

S Horrifying.

J Are you feeding on demand?

S You can't do anything else. She's got a powerful set of lungs. I reckon she's going to be an opera singer when she grows up.

J A loud screamer is she?

S Yes, when she wants something she lies on her back, kicks her legs in the air and screams the house down.

J Yes, my daughter is just the same.

S Your daughter? I didn't know you had a baby girl. How old is he?

J Sixteen.

S Oh, you mean Lauren!

J Mind you, her brother Kevin is worse. You should see him when we ask him to go and tidy his bedroom. The whole house shakes when he slams the door.

S How old is he now?

J Fifteen.

S So.. two teenagers the? That must be a challenge.

J You can say that again.

S I was watching this programme the other day on daytime TV, and this woman expert said the secret with teenagers is to keep the lines of communication open.

J Oh, we've done that. We've developed a system ... one grunt for 'yes' and two grunts for 'no'. Mind you, they don't seem to have any problem communicating with their friends.

S How do you mean?

J Well, they're forever on their 'phones talking or texting or twittering. And then there's Bookface and Joe Bloggs

S You mean Facebook and Blogs.

J Whatever... oh dear, I'm beginning to sound like a teenager myself. Anyway, whatever they are doing they clam up as soon as we come near.

S So, John, it's not easy being a parent of teenagers then?

- J No, give me a gorgeous three month old baby like little Tuesday here any day. [*Peers into pram*]
- S Oh, please don't wake her up. She's especially lovely when she's asleep.
- J All children have that endearing quality in common; they are all beautiful when they are asleep.
- S Even teenagers?
- J Especially teenagers. Mind you, they tend to sleep at odd times. Suggesting they turn in is a waste of breath, but getting them out of bed in the morning is well nigh impossible. Our two have been known to stay in bed till 2 o'clock in the afternoon on occasions.
- S Sounds though they've become nocturnal – awake in the dark but asleep in the light.
- J That's right, and it makes it so difficult for them to engage with the real world. You feel as a parent that they are letting the world simply pass them by.
- S Maybe that's because they **are** finding it difficult. They are changing from children to adults but they haven't quite figured life out for themselves – and that includes their thoughts about God.
- J It's interesting you should say that, because I did happen to overhear Lauren having a deep chat on the 'phone with one of her friends about whether Jesus could be God and man.
- S Teenagers are very open-minded. They do discuss all sorts of things – often late into the night.
- J So Christian teenagers can be good at spreading light in the dark.
- S Precisely – they are not as asleep as we think.
- J No, maybe it's old fogies like me who are asleep in the light – I can't think of the last time I spoke to anyone about my Christian faith.
- S Maybe it's you that needs the wake up call, John.
- J Whereas you, Susie, have your very own living breathing alarm clock – in the shape of little Tuesday here. I'll bet she keeps you on your toes.
- S Not half, John. There's not much time for sleeping in the light when she's around.

THE END