

THE ROYAL FAMILY

By Rod

This sketch is based on 2 Corinthians 9 v 7 and explores what is meant by 'generous giving'. It is a parody of TVs 'The Royle Family' with characters mirroring those in this series. The family are 'Royal' because they are Christians and so members of God's royal family but their lifestyle and generosity of spirit does not reflect this status.

CAST

Dad

Mum

Anthony (their younger son)

Denise (their older married daughter)

Dave (their son-in-law)

Dad is seated in one chair. Mum and Anthony are sitting on a sofa. All are reading the Sunday papers. TV is in front of them.

DAD I see Manchester United won 3-1 yesterday. Rooney scored a hat trick.

MUM Oh, good.

ANTHONY Fulham lost.

MUM Oh dear! That'll upset that millionaire fellow.

DAD Who do you mean?

MUM That Harrods El Fayed chappy.

ANTHONY [*Correcting*] Mohammed.

MUM Oh sorry. That Harrods El Mohammed. He runs Fulham doesn't he?

[Doorbell rings]

DAD See who that is, Anthony.

[Exit Anthony]

MUM Funny name though. Harrods El Mohammed. What do you think the El stands for?

DAD Loadsofmoney I should think.

[Enter Anthony followed by Dave and Denise]

ANTHONY It's Denise and Dave.

MUM Oh, hello loves. How are you?

DENISE Hi, Mam. Fine thanks. *[Kisses Mum]*

DAD Here, Dave, I hope you were careful when you parked your car between mine and your mother-in-law's.

DAVE I most certainly was. Very careful indeed.

DENISE Oh, yes. Isn't it exciting, Mum? How do you find your new car?

DAD How does she find it? I'll tell you how she finds it. She holds up her electronic key and presses the button. Then she knows that her car is the one that is flashing. That's how she finds it!

MUM *[Ignoring Dad]* It's lovely thank you Denise. I particularly like the colour. It matches the dress I bought at Marks and Sparks last week.

DAD Oh look, it's that Lenny the Lion fellow on TV.

ANTHONY *[Correcting]* Lenny Henry.

[They all sit down. Denise next to Mum on sofa with Dave next to Denise. Anthony is forced to sit on the floor]

DENISE He makes me laugh.

DAVE What's he talking about? It doesn't look very funny to me with all those skinny black children in the background.

DAD *[Disappointed]* Argh, it's just one of those Comic Relief things again. You're always being asked for money these days. They expect you to give, give, give.

MUM Turn it off Anthony. I want to show Denise and Dave our holiday brochures. *[Anthony switches off TV. Mum gets out some brochures]*

DENISE Ooh, what a good idea. Where are you thinking of going?

MUM Well, we thought we might try Africa this year. We've been to America so often it's getting rather boring.

DAVE I'm told the Gambia is really good for tourists. You get waited on hand and foot because the price of labour is so cheap out there.

[Doorbell rings]

DAD Get the door will you, Anthony?

[Exit Anthony]

DENISE Wasn't it a lovely service in church this morning?

MUM Oh yes, lovely.

DAVE Apart from the drama group's effort.

DAD Oh yes. *[Laughing]* What is it they call themselves?

DAVE The NT players.

DAD What does NT stand for?

DAVE No Talent I should think. *[Dave and Dad share the joke]*

[Enter Anthony]

MUM Who was it Anthony?

ANTHONY Somebody collecting for the Homeless.

DAD I hope you told them where to go.

ANTHONY I most certainly did. I said 'Go next door. They've got far more money than we have'.

DAD Well done, son, you get far too many beggars these days. Nobody can stand on their own two feet.

DENISE I love the words of that hymn we sang this morning.

MUM Which one was that dear?

DENISE The one at the end: "That were an offering far too small, Love so amazing, so divine demands my soul, my life, my all." It always makes me cry.

MUM Yes, me too.

DAD I thought the vicar spoke well.

MUM Yes, that made a nice change.

DAD What was his text again?

DAVE God loves a bit of liver.

DAD No, that wasn't it.

DAVE God loves a chicken dinner.

DAD No, no, no.

ANTHONY God loves a cheerful giver.

DAD Yes, that's it. I thought he was on good form. I told him so afterwards. But you'll never guess what he said to me in reply.

DENISE Why, what did he say?

DAD He said, "I hope it will help you to sort out your giving to God's work".

MUM He didn't!

DAD He did.

DENISE But you always put money in the collection on behalf of us all.

DAD I know. And I did so as usual today. I even emptied my pockets.

ANTHONY How much did you put in?

DAD 33p. Well, I spent the rest of my change down at the pub last night. But I gave it cheerfully and that's what matters.

DENISE Of course you did, Dad, and we're proud of you.

THE END