

SUPERDAD

By Rod

This sketch is designed to illustrate Ephesians 6 v 4 (NIV), where Fathers are told not to “exasperate their children”.

CAST

Dad *Likes to think of himself as a good dad, but is not very good at it.*
Mum *Married to Dad!*
Dan *Their son*
Sarah *Their daughter*

There is a dining-table centre stage. Sarah and Dan are doing homework at the table. Mum is busy at the side preparing supper.

Sarah Mum, can you help me with my homework, please?

Mum Not now, Beth dear, I'm cooking the supper; why don't you ask your dad?

Sarah My dad?

Dan Yes, you know, that strange bloke who drops in for meals occasionally.

Mum I'm sure he'll help if he can.

Dan Dream on.

Sarah I suppose I might as well give it a go. *[Enter Dad, mobile telephone to ear]*

Dad *[To 'phone]* Yes, Dave, we need to consolidate our position. If we can shift into gilts the downturn in the footsie and the Nasdaq won't affect us. And then any upturn will leave us smelling of roses...

Sarah Dad, can you help me with my homework?

Dad *[To Sarah]* Not now, Sarah. *[Resuming on 'phone]* So I can get on to that right away Dave? Great. And then we'll need to ...

Sarah But, Dad, I really need your help.

Dad *[To Sarah. Irritated]* Look girl, I said not now. I'm in the middle of an important business call. *[Dad resumes conversation]* Sorry about that, Dave, my daughter wants help with her homework. I don't know what the trouble with the young generation is these days. I used to do all my own homework. *[Sarah gives up and*

goes back to table. Dad continues conversation but we can't hear him]

- Dan *[To Sarah as she returns]* So, did dad help you?
- Sarah No, he was on the 'phone – again.
- Dan Surprise, surprise
- Mum Supper's ready, you two. Dan, could you clear the table, please? And, Sarah, could you call your dad?
- Dan *[Starting to clear]* Yes, mum. *[Beth goes across to Dad]*
- Dad Yes, Dave, that sounds like a great idea.
- Sarah Dad.
- Dad *[To Sarah]* I said not now, Sarah.
- Sarah *[Matter of factly]* Mum says supper is ready.
- Dad Oh right. *[To 'phone]* Look Dave, one of the sprogs has just told me that my supper is ready so I'd better go. Don't want to upset "Er indoors". Bye then. See you Saturday. About 11 o'clock. I'll look forward to it. Chow. *[By this time he has arrived at the table where the other three are seated ready to start the meal]* Have you washed your hands children.
- Sarah & Dan *[Resignedly, as if this happens every meal]* Yes dad.
- Mum *[Pointedly]* Yes, dear, we were just waiting for you.
- Dad Oh, right. Well let's say grace then shall we.
- Dan *[Unenthusiastically]* Yes let's.
- Sarah Before the food is stone cold.
- Dad Hands together, eyes closed.
For what we are about to receive, for our parents who have provided it, and for our mother who has so lovingly prepared it ,
[Sarah and Dan are looking at each other shaking their heads. Dad notices and directs the next statement firmly at them] may the Lord make us truly grateful.
- Mum Thank you, dear. *[Children start to eat]*
- Dad Don't bolt your food, Dan.

Dan I wasn't Dad; I'm just hungry.

Dad Don't answer back Dan. It's so rude. And Sarah, do sit up. How many times have I told you that deportment is so important for young ladies.

Sarah *[Her mouth is full]* About five hundred maybe.

Dad And don't speak with your mouth full.

Mum What time is your football match on Saturday, Dan?

Dan Kick-off is at 11 o'clock.

Dad What match is that, Dan?

Dan *[Incredulous that his dad doesn't know]* The final of the County schools' cup.

Sarah You can't have forgotten, dad.

Dad *[Worried]* No, no, of course not.

Dan And you will be there to watch me play won't you, dad? Like you promised.

Dad Well, er, er, it's just that.....I've got an important meeting on Saturday.

Mum Can't you get out of it?

Dad No, it's with Dave; he's an important client.

Dan *[Sadly]* Forget it, dad, it doesn't matter.

Mum Sarah and I will be there. We can make enough noise for three.
[They finish the meal and are beginning to clear]

Dad I'll tell you what, Dan old buddy, I'll make it up to you. Why don't we go and play football together after supper. We can have a kick around. I'll just go and change into my football gear. *[He goes off stage]*

Dan No, dad, it's all right. There's no need*[But Dad has gone, ignoring him]*

Mum That'll be nice for you, won't it Dan? To have a bit of time with your dad.

Dan *[Doubtfully]* Maybe.

Mum Can you two help me clear the table please?

Sarah Sure. Great meal, mum, thanks.

Dan Yes, thanks mum. *[Dad reappears with football shirt and red and white football supporters' wig – i.e. looking ridiculous]*

Dad Are you ready, son. We can go out on the field at the back. Perhaps some of your mates will be there.

Dan I hope not.

Dad I'll show you some of my old footballing skills. I was pretty nifty in my day.

Sarah Yes, the thirteenth of May 1864.

Dan Great. I can't wait.

Dad So Danny boy, it's "Be there or be square". *[To Dan, hoping he will join in] Be there or.... [Pauses for Dan to complete]*

Dan *[Unenthusiastically] Don't be there. [Dan trudges off]*

Dad So, Sarah, what was this homework you wanted help with earlier?

Sarah I was writing an essay, and I couldn't spell a word.

Dad What was the essay about?

Sarah The title is "My Dad".

Dad Oh, in that case it's easy. The word you want is spelt S-U-P-E-R-D-A-D. SUPERDAD. *[He rushes around the stage copying Superman.]* Is it a bird, is it a 'plane, no it's Superdad.

Sarah No, dad, that wasn't the word I couldn't spell.

Dad Well what was it then.

Sarah Exasperate.

THE END