

UP, UP AND AWAY

By Rod

This sketch is designed for use on Ascension day and relates to Acts 1 vv 1-11. It attempts to pick out the ideas that the disciple were told to stop staring up into the sky, and go back and pray in preparation for being equipped by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses for Jesus.

CAST

John *Male. Christian.*

Emily *His wife. [But could be his daughter or son or even a friend with slight alterations to the script]*

Neighbour *A strong character.*

John is on stage with a rocket launcher, the box it came in, but no rocket. He is staring upwards. Enter Emily.

Emily Ah, there you are, John. I thought I might find you out here.

John Hello dear. *[Pause. John continues to look upwards, and Emily follows suit]*

Emily I thought church was good this morning – all about the Ascension.

John *[Continuing to look up]* Yes, very uplifting. *[Pause]*

Emily John, what exactly are we looking at up in the sky?

John I'm looking for my rocket.

Emily And you reckon you can see it up there?

John No, that's the problem.

Emily How long ago did you fire it?

John About two or three minutes or so.

Emily *[Noticing the box and picking it up to read it.]* Is it the box that came out of this box?

John Yes, that's the one.

Emily The one that claims that it "flies up to 100 feet"?

John Yes, that's right.

Emily Are you sure you're going to see it come back down again after all this time.

John Yes. You see it's a law of Physics that what goes up must come down.

Emily Like those shelves you put up last weekend – and that fell down on Tuesday.

John *[Irritated]* It's to do with gravity.

Emily Oh, one of Newton's laws then.

John Yes.

Emily You don't think it might be caught up in a tree or something?

John Well, I figured that since I saw it go straight up it will probably come straight down.

Emily Did you allow for the wind?

John The wind?

Emily Yes, there's quite a strong crosswind today; it's blowing towards those houses over there. *{She points}* Perhaps that is where your rocket has ended up. *{Enter neighbour from direction Emily has been pointing. He is carrying John's rocket and is clearly angry}*

Neighbour Oi you, rocket man; I want a word with you.

John Oh, great, you've got my rocket. Thanks. Where did you find it?

Neighbour In my greenhouse.

Emily Did you say "in your greenhouse"?

Neighbour Yes, in my greenhouse – having travelled there by smashing one of the windows on the way.

John Oh, sorry about that. It's one of Newton's laws of Physics, you know: "What goes up must come down".

Neighbour Oh really? Well there's another law of Physics called Newton's Third Law. Do you know that one?

John Er, er I'm not sure I quite remember that one ...

Emily "For every action there is an equal but opposite reaction."

Neighbour Precisely. So, since your action was to break the window in my greenhouse, my reaction is to break the nose in your face. *[Advances on John menacingly]*

Emily *[Stepping between them]* I'm sure that won't be necessary. My husband will be only too happy to pay for any damages. *[Looking at John meaningfully]* Won't he?

John *[Fumbling for wallet]* What? Oh yes, quite. Er ... will this be enough. *[Gives £10 note]*

Neighbour *[Doubtfully]* I'll have to get a glazier in, of course. That can be expensive.

John *[Handing over another £10]* Oh, all right. There you are.

Neighbour I suppose that should cover it.

John Can I have my rocket back now please?

Neighbour Only on the condition that you clear off home, and stop disturbing the peace of a Sunday afternoon.

John Oh yes, we will. Don't worry. *[Neighbour returns rocket and exits]* ...and sorry about your greenhouse. *[To Emily]* Oh dear, I'll have to be more careful to calculate the effect of the wind next time.

Emily Don't you think it might be a better idea to put your rocket away for a while? After all the vicar did remind us this morning that we should be witnessing to our friends and neighbours – not winding them up into a state of extreme irritation.

John Yeah, you're probably right.

Emily I'll tell you what: why don't we go inside right away and pray for the man from number ten that you've just annoyed, and ask God to give you a chance to make things right with him properly?

John To mend fences, you mean – or even repair greenhouse windows?

Emily Given you DIY skills, it might be better to ask God to show you some other approach.

John That's a good idea that is Emily. Trust you to come up with some high level thinking.

Emily Just down to earth common sense if you ask me. It's not exactly rocket science.

THE END