

# YOURS TRULY

By Rod

*This sketch accompanies a reading from Matthew 7: 1-6 but looks more at the sincerity of personal faith rather than any judgemental aspects. Janie is really 'playing' at being a Christian: she attends church regularly but does not really give Jesus a look in during the rest of the week. In the first version she manages to keep up the pretence successfully. In the second version she admits her failings. The idea is to run both sketches – Rachel's words are identical- to draw a comparison. Her 'Inner Self' tells us more about what she is really thinking inside.*

## CAST

Rachel        *Someone of standing in the church who knows Janie*  
Janie         *A young person struggling with her Christian faith*  
Inner Self    *Janie's inner self*

## SCENE ONE

*Rachel is sitting at a table alone after the evening service. Her Inner Self is standing behind her. There are coffee, cups, biscuits, etc on the table. Enter Rachel.*

Rachel        Hello there, Janie. Can I join you?

Janie         Oh, hi Rachel. Please do.

Inner Janie   Uhoh – you'd better be on your best behaviour.

R             Did you have a good week?

J             Yes, pretty good.

IJ            It depends how you define 'good'. I'm not sure Rachel would agree that a week in which you never read your Bible once was particularly 'good' from a Christian point of view.

R            *[Slight pause]* Good service this evening, I thought.

J            Yes, the worship was great. I was really moved by the Spirit.

IJ            You mean you liked a couple of the songs because they had catchy tunes.

R            I thought Marc spoke well.

J            What? Oh, yes; the sermon was very challenging.

IJ            Although you didn't actually listen to all of it did you?

R            Which bit challenged you most?

J            Er....

IJ            This should be interesting. What can you remember?

J            The bit about the plank.

IJ            Oh, well done. Nice recall!

R            You reckon you've got a plank that needs removing?

I            Several, I'd say. It's a wonder you can see at all.

J            Yeah, I am struggling with one or two things in my Christian life.

IJ            That's an understatement!

R            Anything you want to tell me about?

J            Well, I am having a few small problems with drink.

IJ            A few small problems! Aren't you going to tell Rachel you were drunk as a skunk last night at the end of your night on the town?

J            I may have had one or two too many on occasions.

IJ            I thought not.

R            It's important to remember we can pray about things. God is always open to our prayers – even if we are having problems.

J            Oh, I pray a lot.

IJ            *[Incredulous]* What?!

J            Yes, I like to spend time with the Lord in prayer and meditation. I find it gives me a spiritual high and clears the mind.

IJ            Blows the mind, you mean – if you are talking about the time you spend smoking cannabis. You've got a bit of a habit forming there , haven't you?

R We do know as Christians that whatever happens, once we have committed our lives to the Lord, He will never let us go.

J Oh, yes, I find that very comforting. I vividly remember the day I invited Jesus into my life at Soul Survivor.

IJ I'll bet you do. What was the name of that dishy young man you went forward with, and who you were hoping to impress with your 'spirituality'?

R He won't give up on us once we are His.

J No, it's very reassuring.

IJ Nathan – that was it. And he did give up on you, didn't he? So your show of spirituality didn't do the trick with him.

R The Christian life is a relationship with someone who really loves us.

J Yes, that ongoing relationship part is brilliant. The Lord understands that we need that sort of reassurance.

IJ That explains why you embarked on an ongoing relationship with Wayne once you realised that Nathan wasn't interested? Even though Wayne never goes to church.

R Relationships need to be maintained, otherwise they may peter out.

J Oh, yes, how true.

IJ Is that why you're sleeping with Wayne; you're worried your relationship with him will peter out if you don't give him what he wants?

R I've got to be going now, but if you like, we could pray together sometime this week. I'm free any evening to suit you.

R Oh, great idea. I'll give you a call to fix a time.

IJ No you won't.

R Great. See you soon. Bye Janie. *[Exit]*

J Bye Rachel.

IJ            *[Sarcastic]* Oh, well done. Nice performance. You almost fooled me into believing your Christian life is truly sincere and not just a hobby for Sundays.

*END OF SCENE ONE*

## **SCENE TWO**

*Rachel is sitting at a table alone after the evening service. Her Inner Self is standing behind her. There are coffee, cups, biscuits, etc on the table. Enter Rachel.*

Rachel        Hello there, Janie. Can I join you?

Janie          Oh, hi Rachel. Please do.

Inner Janie   Oh great, it's Rachel. She's just the sort of person you need to talk to right now.

R              Did you have a good week?

J              Not the greatest really.

IJ             That's an understatement. But at least you're being honest.

R              *[Slight pause]* Good service this evening, I thought.

J              Yes, it was.

IJ             Although it only really came alive for you during the sermon.

R              I thought Marc spoke well.

J              Yes, the sermon was very challenging.

IJ             Shook you to the core, you mean.

R              Which bit challenged you most?

J              Definitely the bit about the plank.

IJ             I hope you're going to tell her what you mean.

R              You reckon you've got a plank that needs removing?

J Several, I'd say.

IJ She's going to want you to explain. Are you going to mention the drink ... the drugs ... and the sex?

R Anything you want to tell me about?

J I reckon my Christian life is a complete mess. Last night I was drunk as a skunk at the end of a night on the town, I've started smoking cannabis and I'm sleeping with a boy who isn't a Christian.

IJ Well done. That took some courage.

R *[Surprise but trying not to overreact]* It's important to remember we can pray about things. God is always open to our prayers – even if we are having problems.

J That's just it. I find I can't pray. God just isn't there. My prayers just bounce back off the ceiling.

IJ That's if you pray at all.

R We do know as Christians that whatever happens, once we have committed our lives to the Lord, He will never let us go.

J I do remember the day I invited Jesus into my life at Soul Survivor.

IJ Are you going to tell her about Nathan?

R He won't give up on us once we are His.

J The truth is I only went forward because I fancied this boy called Nathan and he wanted to so I tagged along. ...*[Thinking]* But I guess I did pray the prayer to Jesus – and probably meant it.

IJ Yes, you did have mixed motives. But your prayer was sincere.

R The Christian life is a relationship with someone who really loves us.

J He's going to have to love me a lot to sort out all the things I am getting wrong at the present.

IJ But the Lord does love you. He died for you.

R Relationships need to be maintained, otherwise they may peter out.

J I guess a couple of hours on a Sunday is not really enough to maintain the relationship properly.

IJ It's certainly all you give at the moment. During the rest of the week you don't give Jesus a second thought (except a very guilty one).

R I've got to be going now, but if you like, we could pray together sometime this week. I'm free any evening to suit you.

R Oh, that would be fantastic, Rachel. How about tomorrow night about 8.00 p.m. I'll come to your place.

IJ Nice work. Don't let the newly stoked fire peter out again.

R Great. See you soon. Bye Janie. *[Exit]*

J Bye Rachel. And thank you so much for listening.

IJ Maybe now you'll be able to turn your Sunday evening hobby into a walk with Jesus that is truly sincere.

*END OF SCENE TWO*