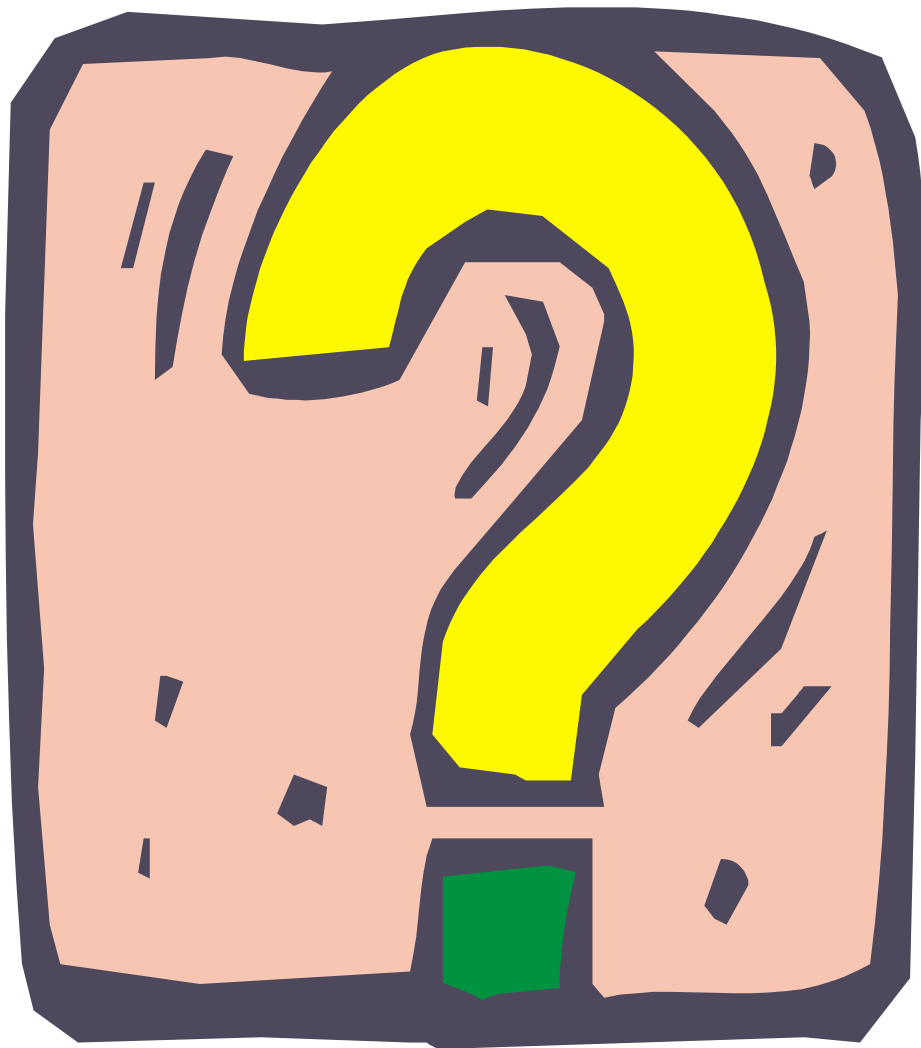


I Hear You, But I Don't Get It!

By Gary Millar and Scott Tunmer



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Description



Ted isn't a Christian, but he is seeking after truth, and attends church a couple of weeks in a row. This is a humorous look at the way that the well-meaning Christians in the church leave poor Ted perplexed, rather than enlightened.

Purpose



To show how Christians can sometimes do more to confuse the lost than to win them to Christ.

Additional Information



The Bible clearly tells us that as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are set apart from the ways of the world. In fact, the book of Romans tells us not to be conformed to the world's pattern. (Romans 12:2) However, in order to win the lost, we need to be able to relate to people right where they are, as Jesus himself did.



Category

Comedy



Audience

Christians



Time

15 Minutes



Difficulty

Easy

Scripture Reference



I Corinthians 9:20-22 (NIV): “To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.”

Cast of Characters [3 Male, 3 Female, 4-6 Either]



TED: He isn't a Christian, but he is seeking. He has little or no church background.

PASTOR: Your average church pastor.

MARTHA: An older Christian lady. (Think of the *Church Lady* from *Saturday Night Live*.)

GLADYS: Martha's faithful sidekick.

RICH: A long-time Christian and church attendee.

SHELLY: Rich's wife.

EXTRAS: Four to six people. They will give the impression of a crowd milling around and they have no speaking parts.

Props



<i>Prop</i>	<i>Start Location</i>	<i>Notes</i>
A small pulpit or podium	Back of stage – facing audience	
At least ten chairs	Set up to resemble a church, facing the pulpit.	
A small table	Front of stage	
Some coffee cups & plates	On the table	

Costume



PASTOR wears a suit.

ALL OTHERS are dressed for a typical Sunday church service.

Sound Effects



No sound effects are required.

Lighting



General stage lighting.

Scene



A typical Sunday morning church service. The scene opens with the **PASTOR** finishing his benediction. The rest of the cast is sitting with their backs to the audience.

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Script



(The PASTOR is facing the audience and his "congregation." The other members of the cast are seated, facing the PASTOR, with their backs to the audience.)

PASTOR: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen. Thanks for coming -- see you at church next week. Please stay for a time of coffee and fellowship.

(The members of the congregation rise and begin to have coffee time. TED goes to the table and gets a cup of coffee. MARTHA and GLADYS see TED and begin to talk about him. Some of the EXTRAS should shake hands with the PASTOR and leave at various points during the sketch.)

MARTHA: See that man over there?

GLADYS: Yeah...

MARTHA: He doesn't know the Lord!

GLADYS: Well what in the world is he doing here of all places? Are you sure he doesn't know the Lord?

MARTHA: Pretty sure... Let's find out.

(They both walk over to TED.)

MARTHA: I'm Martha and this is Gladys. *(They shake hands.)*

TED: Hi, I'm Ted. Nice to meet you.

MARTHA: Ted, I'd like you to help me with a little word association game. You just say the very first thing that pops into your head, OK? Red!

TED: Uhhh... Green?

(MARTHA and GLADYS nod to each other in acceptance of TED 's answer.)

MARTHA: Dog.

TED: Cat.

MARTHA: Genesis.

TED: Phil Collins.

MARTHA: Excuse me?

TED: Phil Collins.

MARTHA: Funny, that's not the first thing I would have said. Gladys? *(GLADYS nods in agreement.)* Let's try that again, Ted. Genesis.

TED: Phil Collins.

MARTHA: So, Ted... Have you found Christ?

TED: Found Christ?

MARTHA: Yes -- Have you found him?

TED: Is he lost?

MARTHA: No, Ted; you are lost.

TED: *(Confused.)* I'm lost? So... are you lost too?

MARTHA: No, I'm not lost. I found Christ!

TED: Well if you already found him, why are you asking me if I found him?

MARTHA: Well, Ted, we each need to find Christ.

TED: And what happens if I do find him?

MARTHA: Then you're not lost anymore!

TED: So... if I find him, then I'm not lost?

MARTHA: Yup; it's just that simple. Oh look, Gladys -- there's Helen. Nice to meet you Ted!

(They shake hands. MARTHA and GLADYS leave and move around in the crowd. TED stands alone, confused by the conversation that just took place. RICH and SHELLY then come over to TED.)

RICH: Hi, I'm Rich. My wife, Shelly... You are?

TED: Ted.

RICH: Nice to meet you, Ted.

SHELLY: Wasn't that a wonderful service?

TED: Yes it was. I enjoyed it.

RICH: The most meaningful part for me was the Lord's Supper.

(TED seems indifferent to RICH's comment. RICH and SHELLY look at TED, wondering if something is wrong. TED doesn't understand.)

TED: What? What's wrong?

RICH: Ted -- did you take the Lord's supper?

TED: *(TED is afraid that they think he has stolen something.)* Did I take it?

RICH: Yes, did you take the Lord's supper? Yes or no?

TED: No, I didn't take it. Are you positive someone took it?

SHELLY: Absolutely! I took it.

RICH: I took it too!

TED: If you guys took it, then why are you asking me if I took it?

SHELLY: The Lord wants us all to take his supper, Ted.

TED: *(Very confused.)* He does?

RICH: Ted, I'm concerned about you. How's your walk, son?

(TED looks down at his legs and takes a couple of steps in place.)

TED: My walk? Why do you ask?

RICH: Because you just said you didn't take the Lord's Supper, so there must be something wrong with your walk!

TED: What do you mean?

RICH: Well, if your walk was strong, you'd want to take the Lord's Supper.

TED: I would? Look, Rich, I'm lost.

RICH: You are? Well that changes everything!

TED: It does?

RICH: Yes, you see if you're lost, then you shouldn't take the Lord's Supper.

TED: I shouldn't?

RICH: No. You need to find Christ!

TED: Here we go again.

SHELLY: Rich, we really need to get going. Don't want to burn the pot roast.

RICH: Right! Well, nice talking with you Ted. I hope you find Christ!

(RICH and SHELLY pass by the PASTOR who is saying good-bye to those exiting.)

SHELLY: Great message today, Pastor. Just what we needed to hear.

RICH: Good job! You hit 'em right between the eyes! Pow!

PASTOR: God bless you both. See you next week.

(RICH and SHELLY exit. TED now greets the PASTOR, as he is leaving.)

PASTOR: Nice to have you with us again this week. That's two in a row, isn't it?

TED: Yes, it is.

PASTOR: So did you learn anything today, Ted?

TED: Well, I learned that if I find Christ, I won't be lost anymore, and then I can take his supper.

PASTOR: That's great, son! You've got it all figured out!

(TED walks away from the PASTOR totally confused. He stops and faces the audience.)

TED: Figured out? I don't even know what I just said!

(Lights out.)