

A Sketch about Tithing Our Time to the Lord.

CAST: Gary Singleton, Kyle O'Rourke

SETTING: Home of Gary, easy chair, cup of coffee, two watches, door (if imaginary, use sound effects of a doorbell)

PROPS: Clipboard with a huge stack of papers, should look like a questionnaire; black marker

COSTUMES: Modern day lounging wear for Gary, with wristwatch; business attire for Kyle, with wristwatch

Sketch opens with Gary sitting in his easy chair reading the morning paper and sipping his coffee. The doorbell rings. Gary looks at his watch as he gets up to answer the door.

Gary: Who could it be at this hour of the morning?
(He opens the door and sees Kyle standing there with a clipboard and marker in his hand)

Kyle: Good morning! Isn't this a beautiful morning?

Gary: It was.

Kyle: Sorry to bother you, sir, but I'm from the Spiritual Census Bureau.

Gary: I already filled out the form. (Starts to shut the door)

Kyle: (using his foot, he blocks the door from shutting) That was for the national census. This is the Spiritual Census Bureau. I'd like to ask you a few short questions, if I might.

Gary: (indicating his clipboard full of papers) A few questions?

Kyle: They go fast. Now then, your name?

Gary: Gary.

Kyle: Just Gary.

Gary: Just Gary?

Kyle: And where do you live, Just Gary?

Gary: Here.

Kyle: (giggles) Oh, yes, of course. And are you a believer, Just Gary?

Gary: Of course. Didn't you see the bumper stickers on my car in the driveway?

Kyle: Yes, but they were next to that "Nuke Barney" bumper sticker, so I wasn't sure...

Gary: Yes, I'm a believer. That was a little joke. Can we go on to the next question? My coffee's getting cold.

Kyle: Very well. Just Gary, do you feel you give God the time that is due him?

Gary: Sure. I mean, I guess. I...uh, what'dya mean?

Kyle: Do you give Him His fair share of your time?

Gary: It took a lot of time putting those bumper stickers on my car. A couple of them had a hard time sticking.

Kyle: The question is, do you give Him the time that's due Him? He's entitled to a fair portion of your time.

Gary: If it's like tithe, ten percent, 2.4 hours a day, then I'd say, yeah, I do that easy.

Kyle: Well, it doesn't have to be ten percent, but it should be a fair amount. Three 30-second prayers over your meals is only a minute and a half, you know.

Gary: We pray at least a whole minute before every meal. You don't know my wife's cooking.

Kyle: Okay, I'll allow three minutes for saying grace. What other spiritual things do you do throughout your day?

Gary: Does saying "God bless you" to people count?

Kyle: (checking over form) Yes, there's a box for that. So, how many times a day would you say you do that?

Gary: I dunno. Four, maybe five.

Kyle: (Unimpressed) Four or five?

Gary: (quickly) In allergy season, that figure doubles!

Kyle: Okay, I'll allow for ten "God bless yous." So, how long does that take? One, two seconds each?

Gary: Depends on how I say it. I could say (quickly) "God bless you!" or I could say (drawn out) "God...bless...you." When I use it as a witnessing tool, I usually draw it out. It's a lot more effective.

Kyle: I'll give you three seconds each for ten "God bless yous". You're up to 195 seconds a day. Not very much. What else ya got?

Gary: I go to church.

Kyle: How many times a week?

Gary: Once, of course. I don't want to get fanatical about this sort of thing.

Kyle: And how much time would you say you spend there? An hour, hour-and-a-half tops?

Gary: Are you kidding? Our pastor's just getting to his first "and now in closing" by then!

Kyle: Alright, I'll give you two hours a week for church, spread that out over seven days, it only adds about 17 minutes to your total. Not very impressive.

Gary: Television ministries! Doesn't the time I spend watching religious programming count for something?

Kyle: Well, yes, I suppose...

Gary: And "Touched By An Angel" is into reruns. Surely, that pushes me over.

Kyle: Sorry, but even with that you're still falling way short of giving a fair share of your time to God. You know, there's a lot of things you can do to give God your time. How 'bout teaching a Sunday School class, babysitting for a young couple that needs a night away from the kids, taking a meal to a neighbor who is ill...

Gary: I thought I told you about my wife's cooking.

Kyle: Okay, skip that one. But there are a lot of things you can do to give God your time. One of the most important things you can do is read your Bible every night. Do you do that?

Gary: By nightlight? Are you kidding? That'd ruin my eyes. But I do pray for about a minute or so before I go to bed.

Kyle: That's good.

Gary: Two minutes if I've really got a need.

Kyle: And we wonder why God sometimes allows trials in our lives. Maybe it's just so we'll talk to Him.

Gary: What's that?

Kyle: Oh, nothing.

Gary: Oh, all right, look, maybe I don't give enough time to the Lord. But I do tithe my money.

Kyle: Don't you see, God wants your time, too.

Gary: But I'm too busy making money so I can pay tithe on it. You know how it is.

Kyle: Just Gary, if we're so busy, we're squeezing God out of our day, then we're too busy.

Gary: I know. You're absolutely right. From now on, I'm going to give God His fair share of my day. In fact, can I borrow that marker for a minute?

Kyle: Sure, but...

(Gary takes the marker and blocks off fifteen minutes off his watch)

Gary: There. I've blocked off the first fifteen minutes of each hour on my watch. Now every time I look at it, it'll remind me to give that time to God.

Kyle: Hey, that sounds like a pretty good idea. (He takes the marker and does the same to his watch)

Gary: It'll be hard to do it every hour while I'm sleeping, unless I dream of heaven or something, but this'll be a start. So what's the next question?

Kyle: I don't think I have to ask you any more questions. It's obvious you've already got the message.

Gary: You know, I wonder if I could market a watch like this. A watch set to God's time zone.

Kyle: "Faith—it can take a lickin', but it'll keep on tickin'!" Hey, I like that!

Gary: Of course, the time I spend designing a watch like that would count toward my spiritual time, wouldn't it?

Kyle: Well, technically, it's a business. But I'll talk to the higher ups and we'll see.

Gary: Aw, never mind, it doesn't really matter. If a watch like this will help me and other people remember to give God more of our day, then it's time well spent!

Kyle: I couldn't have said it better myself, Mr. Singleton.

Blackout