

# Love Thy Neighbor

By Mark Washburn & Gary Randolph



## Theme and Purpose

Sometimes we just don't get it. The book of James talks about a person who looks into a mirror and then walks away, immediately forgetting what has been seen. James says that is how Christians in his day often read the Word of God. Apparently things haven't changed that much in twenty centuries. God wants our lives to be radically transformed by the Gospel. We hear the words, but we too often fail to put them into practice - like the characters in this comedy sketch.

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<b>Cast list</b>	Aaron - (married to Sarah) Complains about church running long and pew taken Sarah - (married to Aaron) Complains about restaurant service Andy - (married to Kate) Voice of reason throughout except leaves a poor tip with a tract Kate - (married to Andy) Complains about next door neighbor Server - black pants, white shirt, plain apron preferably Ned - wears an old T-shirt
<b>Approximate Running Time</b>	4 minutes
<b>Scene Description</b>	A restaurant where Aaron, Sarah, Andy, and Kate have gone after church.
<b>Prop List</b>	Table, plates, silverware, glasses. Food can be imagined. Server has pitcher Pamphlet and coins for tip
<b>Other Production Notes</b>	For a "live" production a table would be better than a booth so the chairs can be placed to allow the audience to see all four diners.
<b>Related Scriptures</b>	Luke 10:25-28; Matthew 22:34-40; James 1:22-25; John 3:11-24
<b>Song Suggestions</b>	Brother's Keeper (Rich Mullins); Blessed be the Tie That Binds; We Are One (Brooklyn Tabernacle); Nothing You Don't Know (Ragamuffin Band)

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(Aaron, Sarah, Andy, and Kate are sitting at a table or booth in a restaurant - Aaron and Sarah on one side, Andy and Kate on the other.)

AARON

Well, this is more like it. I thought that sermon would never end.

SARAH

I thought it was a terrific sermon - Love Thy Neighbor.

AARON

Yeah, but it ran like 5, 10 minutes long. We got here behind the people from Main Street Church. I thought we'd never get a seat.

KATE

Yes, I thought it was just an excellent message. And the choir was so good, too.

AARON

And some jerk had taken OUR pew. We had to sit on the front row. The pastor had his eye on me the whole time. I couldn't get any rest.

ANDY

The pastor had some good points about the meaning of the word "neighbor." It can be anyone - everyone - not just the people who live around us.

KATE

That's a relief because our next door neighbor... Cars up on blocks. Weeds as high as the windows. We set out an old couch to be picked up, and he took it and used it for yard furniture. When he does get around to mowing he does it with his shirt off. Let me tell you, not everyone should mow with his shirt off.

ANDY

Well, he's our neighbor, so...

KATE

Not for long if my neighborhood petition goes through.

ANDY

Well, you know the pastor said, if God thinks our next door neighbor is special, then shouldn't we?

KATE

Oh he's special alright.

SARAH

Where is that server? I'm out of iced tea. The church service would have been done a lot sooner if Ned hadn't gone down to the altar - again!

AARON

You know Ned - always getting born again again.

SERVER

(without stopping)

How are we doing here?

SARAH

(holding up her glass)

I was wanting... Oh...

(as she watches Server walking off)

Well, I thought the best part of the sermon was the part about helping people out despite difficulties, or their looks, or... you know, whatever.

KATE

Speaking of looks, did you see that T-shirt Ned had on?

SARAH

You would think he could afford something nicer - well, if he could keep a job.

AARON

(Sarcastically)

Ned's always trying to find his "place."

(Andy nudges Kate who nods toward the door. They watch as Ned enters, being led to a table by Server.)

ALL FOUR

Oh, hi, Ned.

NED

(while being led past them by Server)

Hey.

SARAH

(to Server)  
Excuse me, I need some more iced tea.

AARON

Good to see ya, buddy.

(Ned passes and they watch him.)

KATE

Poor guy. Has to eat by himself.

ANDY

Well, I guess we could squeeze him in with us...

(The other three just stare at Andy, cutting him off.)

SARAH

Where is that server? I thought he'd come back here after he seated Ned.

AARON

Well, I don't have any problem with loving my neighbors as long as they don't bother me with their issues.

SERVER

Will, there be anything else?

ANDY

Sarah, did you want some more iced tea?

SARAH

I did about 10 minutes ago! Just forget it.

(continuing with a dry throat)

I'm done with my entre now.

(Kate hands Sarah her water glass)

Thanks, Kate. I'm glad someone is taking care of me.

(Server exits)

AARON

Yeah, we need to get moving if we're gonna be home by kickoff.

(They rise.)

ANDY

I'll take care of the tip.

AARON

Thanks buddy.

(Aaron and Sarah exit. Andy pulls a few coins out of his pocket and slaps them on the table.)

KATE

How much of a tip are you leaving?

ANDY

Uh. Thirty-five cents...

(Kate grimaces at him. Andy pulls a flier out of another pocket)

And a Gospel tract!

(Kate nods approvingly. Andy and Kate exit)

*Fade to black*

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