

Missionary Impossible



By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph

Theme and Purpose

First of all, this sketch doesn't have anything to do with missionaries except in the broad meaning of one who has been given a mission. What it is about is how so many of us react to being called to mission – by doubting, arguing, and avoiding. Moses did it. Gideon did it. Jeremiah did it. We do it. But as Moses finds out in this sketch, God knows us better than we know ourselves. To paraphrase Rich Mullins, we should be smart enough to just say "yes."

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| Cast list | Moses Tape Recorder (voice of God off-stage) |
| Approximate Running Time | 4 minutes |
| Scene Description | A modern day park. |
| Prop List | Park bench Large bush or potted plant Tape recorder 8x10 photo in a manila envelope |
| Other Production Notes | Since God is offstage, Moses has to be more animated than a single character would normally be in a dialogue. |
| Related Scriptures | Exodus 3; Deuteronomy 33:25; Psalm 37:4; Matthew 19:26 |
| Song Suggestions | Better is One Day; Use Me; I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go |

Not for Performance

(Moses, dressed in period costume, enters. He looks around furtively. Then he sits on park bench and pulls out an old style tape recorder that has been hidden behind the potted plant with the envelope. He presses the play button and pulls the photo out of the envelope.)

TAPE

(offstage voice)

Good morning, Moses. The man you are looking at is Pharaoh. You're mission is to free the Hebrews. (*Moses nods*) You will perform miracles for Pharaoh to convince him of my power. Pharaoh will respond by making the Hebrew slaves work harder.

MOSES

What?

TAPE

I will rain down plagues until at last Pharaoh will let the people go.

MOSES

That's better.

TAPE

Then Pharaoh will send his army after you.

(Moses slaps forehead)

TAPE

But... well, you don't need all the details right now.

MOSES

Wait! Yes, I do need the details! What was that about the army?

TAPE

All you need to know right now is that your first step is to tell Pharaoh to let your people go.

(Moses pauses for a beat awaiting further instructions.)

TAPE

Do that, and then I'll give further instructions.

MOSES

(leaping to his feet)

That's it? Just go tell Pharaoh to let my people go? Walk up to the most powerful man in the world and say... what? You don't really need those Hebrew slaves, do you? This mission is...well, it's impossible, that's what it is. It can't be done!

TAPE

Excuse me?

MOSES

(turns back to tape player)

Oh, there's more on the tape?

TAPE

No.

MOSES

Oh. Okay.

(double-take)

Wait a minute. Did you just answer me?

TAPE

Yes.

MOSES

How does a tape...? That's... that's...

TAPE

A miracle? Oh, you haven't seen anything yet.

MOSES

So then I'm actually talking to...

TAPE

The one and only.

MOSES

Whoa. Well, then good... because... uh... Earlier did you say my "mission if I choose to accept it?"

TAPE

No, no I didn't.

MOSES

Oh. Well then. You see the thing is... this mission doesn't really appeal to me. Now, I agree with you that my people should be free and all. But I don't think I'm the person for the job. I got a D in speech class, you know.

TAPE

Of course I know. And I also know that you'll do fine with my help.

MOSES

(sits back down on bench)

I just don't see myself as a "let my people go" kind of guy. It's so... so confrontational. I'm more of a subtle-slash-satirical kind of guy. I like making my points with irony. I don't think Pharaoh would get me.

TAPE

Who do you think knows you better: you or me?

MOSES

Well, that's' a silly question.

TAPE

Yes, it is. But you seemed to have forgotten.

MOSES

What? Oh! You mean you... But wait a minute...

TAPE

More to the point, who do you think better knows what you can become?

MOSES

But I don't want to become that.

TAPE

You will once you get there. In fact, you'll love it. Trust me on this one.

MOSES

(sighs)

But I'm telling you - I can't do this. It's impossible for me.

TAPE

Well, of course it's impossible for you. Do you think I would ask you to do something that was possible for you to do?

MOSES

That makes no sense at all.

TAPE

It's kind of a safety measure. I want you in a place where you have to depend on me, not working in your own strength.

MOSES

Well, if I'm going up against Pharaoh I don't think that will be a problem.

TAPE

So?

MOSES

OK. OK. You win.

TAPE

I always do.

MOSES

(sighs then stands)

By the way, how will this all turn out?

TAPE

You wouldn't believe it if I told you. But I'll tell you this - people will talk about this for thousands of years.

MOSES

Really?

(picks up tape recorder and begins to exit)

Now that interests me. Hey, is there anything my brother could do? He's looking for work.

Fade to black

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