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“Being Your Best Jacob”

By
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What	Tyler is determined to be the best “Jacob” ever after being cast in the role at His church.
Who	Tyler Ben
When	Present
Costumes	Athletic wear preferred, but almost anything will work
Props	None needed
Why	Genesis 32:22-32
How	It’s pretty important to play this as if Tyler believes it will really help him knock it out of the park. Have fun with the physicality! Make sure your actors stage the moments careful to ensure safety. It should not be improvised.
Time	4 minutes

As the lights come up, **Tyler** and **Ben** are wrestling, or at least seem to be in some sort of comical struggle.

Ben: *(confused)* What are you doing?

Tyler: *(continuing to wrestle him)* Just go with it!

Ben: What am I going with?

Tyler: It's a wrestling match?

Ben: But why?

Tyler: Just wrestle me!

Ben breaks the hold and takes a step back.

Ben: Why are we wrestling?

Tyler: Because I got the part!

Ben: What?

Tyler: The part in the play that I told you about!

Ben: The one at church?

Tyler: Yeah.

Ben: *(confused)* But...

Tyler: I'm playing Jacob. That's why we're doing this.

Tyler attempts to grab **Ben** again, but **Ben** swats his hand away.

Ben: You're going to have to explain a little more than that.

Tyler: Jacob wrestled God, you remember that story, right? Well, I want to really get into this character. So, humor me, ok?

Ben: That makes zero sense.

Tyler: Have you read that story?

Ben: It's been a while, but yeah.

Tyler: Well, I read online that in order to really understand a character, you need to do the things they have done. You know, kind of walk a mile in their shoes?

Ben: But I'm not God.

Tyler: I noticed. But you're the best I've got.

Tyler grabs Ben.

Ben: *(refusing to move)* I'm not doing this. This is dumb.

Tyler: *(struggling)* The bible's not dumb.

Ben: Of course not. But this is!

Tyler: *(throwing him to the ground)* You'll never beat me!

The next few lines of dialogue are spoken from the ground.

Ben: Hey!

Tyler: Submit to me!

Ben: Fine, I submit.

Tyler: No. You're not supposed to submit.

Ben: But you told me to submit!

Tyler: But that's not how it works!

Ben: Why were Jacob and God wrestling in the first place?

Tyler: Dunno.

Ben: You don't know?

Tyler: It doesn't really say.

Ben: Well, if this is going to continue, you're going to have to let me up for a minute, because I need to go to the bathroom. That's where I was headed when you attacked me.

***Ben** gets to his feet, but **Tyler** holds on to his leg.*

Ben: Let me go!

Tyler: Not until you bless me!

Ben: What?

Tyler: That's what Jacob did. I can't let you go until you bless me.

Ben: God had to go to the bathroom?

Tyler: No, God was done with the wrestling match because they had been going all night and no one had won yet.

Ben: I think I remember that part.

Tyler: So, bless me, and I will let you go to the bathroom.

Ben: You know, I bet that's a sentence that has never, ever been said before in the history of the world.

A moment passes

Ben: Let me go.

Tyler: Bless me.

Ben: I'm fresh out of blessings.

Tyler: God didn't say that.

Ben: What did he say?

Tyler: He asked Jacob his name.

Ben: Ok. I give. What's your name?

Tyler: My name is Tyler. Now bless me, and I'll let you go to the bathroom. Also, at some point you were supposed to mess up my hip so that my leg is hurt, but we'll skip that part and go right to the blessing.

Ben: Fine, I hereby give you my blessing.

Tyler: Wait, before you do that you have to give me a new name.

Ben: Let's skip that part. I really have to go. Please let go of my leg.

Tyler: We can't skip that part.

Ben: Why not? We skipped the part where I broke your hip.

Tyler: That's different. Now give me a new name and bless me again.

Ben: *(after an exasperated sign)* Fine. You are no longer Tyler. Your new name is... uh... Melvin. And Melvin, I hereby bless you. You are blessed, Melvin. Now, let me go.

Tyler: What's your name?

Ben: How do I answer that? I assume you don't want me to say "Ben", right?

Tyler: You don't answer at all.

Ben: Right. Ok then. Can I go now?

Tyler: *(letting him go)* Sure thing.

Ben: *(goes to leave, but turns around)* What's the name of the play?

Tyler: What?

Ben: The play you're in.

Tyler: It's called "The Old Testament in Forty-Five Minutes or Less"

Ben: Ah. *(he goes to leave again, but stops)* Wait.

Tyler: What?

Ben: How big is your part?

Tyler: What do you mean?

Ben: I mean, if you're Jacob, and they're doing the whole old testament in forty five minutes, it doesn't seem like being Jacob would be that big of a role.

Tyler: Oh, it's not. I have like six lines.

Ben: And they're all dealing with wrestling God?

Tyler: Nah. That part is not even in there.

Ben: *(incredulous)* Then why did we just do all of that?!

Tyler: Because I wanted to understand who Jacob is! Look, man, I'm doing this for church and I want to be the best I can be. You get that, right?

Ben: *(as he exits)* I guess.

Tyler: *(calling after him)* Acting is hard. I'm just glad I didn't get the role that Evan got. Preparing to be Job wouldn't be any fun at all. Ripping your clothes, sitting in ashes... man, *that* would be tough.

Black out.