

a script from

# **231** WORSHIP

PURCHASE

SCRIPT

TO

REMOVE

**"Honestly"**

By

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WATERMARK

AT

231WORSHIP.COM

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>What</b>     | Jeff is on cloud nine after scoring prime tickets to the most coveted event he can imagine – until he realizes he's also committed to going to his mother-in-law's house on the same day. This humorous sketch provides a segway for exploration of our own excuse-making, whether to others... or to God.<br><br>Themes: Excuses, Honesty, Service, Choices, Deceitfulness, God's will, Thanksgiving, Deceit, Forgiveness, Work, Gratitude |
| <b>Who</b>      | Jeff: Carol's husband, adult male<br>Carol: Jeff's wife, adult female<br>Dan: Jeff's friend, adult male                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>When</b>     | Present - Thanksgiving                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Costumes</b> | Casual; Jeff could be wearing a sports team jersey                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Props</b>    | 2 porch chairs<br>Bags of groceries<br>2 cell phones<br>Table                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Why</b>      | Exodus 4: 1-17, Luke 14: 18-21, Matthew 25: 24-25, Jeremiah 1: 6-7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>How</b>      | Feel free to substitute a favorite local team and/or stadium when referencing the "big game". Jeff could be played as an offstage voice only if short on actors or rehearsal time. If Jeff is stage, when on the phone in the beginning, Jeff and Dan should be on opposite sides of the stage speaking on their phones out to the audience.                                                                                                |
| <b>Time</b>     | 7 minutes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

**Jeff** enters stage right carrying two full bags of groceries towards his house, stage left, when his cell phone rings. He recognizes the ring tone immediately. (The ring tone is a silly one—perhaps an obvious circus tune or the NFL theme) He fumbles for his phone while quickly balancing the groceries onto one of the two chairs that represent his porch. As he answers, **Jeff** pantomimes peeking through a window into the house as if he doesn’t want to be heard talking to his friend, then sits down in the remaining chair.

**Jeff:** Dan, what’s up?

**Dan:** Hey buddy, I think you’re *definitely* going to want to sit down for this!

*The audience needs to recognize **Dan’s** line as being the same as the final line of the script, so be sure that it stands out in some way. i.e. Dan’s enthusiasm and/or volume could make it memorable, as well as **Jeff’s** hesitation in knowing exactly how to respond to it could also help.*

**Jeff:** Um... well, I *am* actually sitting down... on my porch hiding from Carol so she doesn’t know I’m talking with you! You’re kind of on the “outs” again, you know.

**Dan:** Why this time?

**Jeff:** Seriously? You walked into our house wearing a speedo!

**Dan:** You invited me to swim in your pool, and I happened to have gotten the day wrong! Not a big deal.

**Jeff:** Dan... you walked in on Carol’s church book club! Carol said that Mrs. Henderson almost fainted.

**Dan:** (*chuckling*) Oh, yeah. That was my Dukes of Hazard speedo. Pretty sweet! Anyway... want to hear some big news?

**Jeff:** (*sighing*) Sure... go for it!

**Dan:** Okay... you ready?

**Jeff:** Ready as I'll ever be.

**Dan:** So you're *sitting down*?

**Jeff:** (*peeking through the window again*) Dan... I'm still on my porch chair!

**Dan:** (*hardly containing his excitement*) Okay... so you *are* actually–

**Jeff:** (*frustrated*) Yes! I'm *sitting down*! I'm *sitting down*!

**Dan:** Alright, so I just came from Presley's office. What do you think happened there?

**Jeff:** He finally fired you?

**Dan:** No. Better than that! He said we did a great job with the Whitaker account!

**Jeff:** And the *bad* news?

**Dan:** That's just it– no bad news! Presley said that you and I single-handedly saved the account!

**Jeff:** What's he going to do – give us *two* company turkeys for Thanksgiving this year?

**Dan:** No... a bit better than that!

**Jeff:** Three... ?

**Dan:** Brace yourself!! He's giving us tickets to the Thanksgiving Day Detroit Lions game! (*NOTE: Substitute your favorite NFL team*)

**Jeff:** (*almost falling off his chair*) Honestly? Are you serious!?

**Dan:** Scout's honor!

**Jeff:** Wait... but I heard the game's sold out!

**Dan:** Not for *these* tickets, my friend!

**Jeff:** The seats are pretty good ones?

**Dan:** You could say that.

**Jeff:** Not in the nosebleed section?

**Dan:** We get to be in a luxury suite!

**Jeff:** What!? A luxury suite? Me and you?

**Dan:** Filled with an overflowing buffet!

**Jeff:** Wow! Count me—oh... *(suddenly grimacing)* ...the only thing...

**Dan:** The only thing, what? This is the year of the Lions, man!

**Jeff:** *(hesitantly)* It's just that every year we go to my mother-in-law's for Thanksgiving dinner.

**Dan:** You would consider giving up a Lions game in a luxury suite to go to your Mother-in-law's?

**Jeff:** Ugh!! It's just kind of expected. Carol's mother helped us out with babysitting *a lot* back when Carol was sick. We kind of owe her... and Carol just can't say no to her mother. So we go every year and smile as we chew on dry turkey and soggy potatoes.

**Dan:** So... do you want me to find someone else to go in your place?

**Jeff:** Dan, you're killing me here! *(pausing briefly, then becoming determined)* No... count me in! I guess I have a week or so to break the news to Carol and her mother.

**Dan:** Just remember the Big Three!

**Jeff:** Big Three?

**Dan:** Yep. Luxury suite, free tickets, and lots of food!

**Jeff:** Got it!

*The conversation ends and **Jeff** carries the bags of groceries from the porch into the kitchen/dining room area as the lights go out on the porch and go up on where **Carol** is talking on her phone with her back towards **Jeff**.*

**Jeff:** Honey, I'm ho- (*freezing a moment as he sees **Carol** turning around, holding up a finger, then proceeding to the table down stage to unpack the groceries. He is facing the audience at this point*)

**Carol:** (*speaking on the phone*) Well, that is so nice of you, Mom!

*At the mention of the word, "Mom", **Jeff** freezes as his head pops up and mouths the word, "Mom." He stays frozen while **Carol** continues speaking.*

**Carol:** You know, the time really snuck up on me this year. I'd forgotten that Thanksgiving will be here so soon.

*On the word, "Thanksgiving," **Jeff's** mouth now silently shapes the word "Thanksgiving".*

**Carol:** Thanksgiving dinner? Of course we're planning to come!

***Jeff** has now left the groceries and is trying to get **Carol's** attention, gesticulating wildly in an attempt to guide her responses.*

**Carol:** We would love to come, of course... (*trying to read **Jeff's** motions*) but there may be an issue this year... (*frowning at **Jeff** and shrugging her shoulders*)

***Jeff** begins pantomiming someone getting engaged: going down on one knee, pointing at a ring finger, creating the heart symbol with his hands, etc.*

**Carol:** Jeff may not be able to come because... um... *(covering the phone somewhat while she's doing her own guessing)*. Finger... circle... ring... ring?? Um... knee... proposal... ring... engagement... before? Before engagement... previous engagement? Mom, *(speaking directly into the phone)* it seems that Jeff has a previous engagement! *(listening)* Um... well, that's because I didn't really know about it before *(giving Jeff a “wait until I'm off this phone” look)* It just sort of came up rather recently. *(listening)* What kind of previous engagement? *(glaring at Jeff as he jumps into action pantomiming the next response as she covers the phone again and once again tries to guess the “correct” answer)* Um... typing... pencil... writing... No? Lifting... heavy pencil... lifting weights... handkerchief... mopping brow... sweating... work... work? *(speaking into the phone again)* Yes, Mom? It seems that Jeff's previous engagement is actually work-related.

**Jeff** puffs out his cheeks and sighs in relief as he turns back towards the table.

**Carol:** Yes, that *does* sound like a lot of devotion on Jeff's part, doesn't it?

**Jeff** unpacks more groceries, smiling proudly.

**Carol:** You know, Mom, you're right. *(scowling at Jeff's back)* That is very unthoughtful of his boss to do that –especially on Thanksgiving. Do I think Jeff could possibly get out of it? *(glancing in Jeff's direction, then producing a bit of a smirk)* Oh, guess what, Mom? Jeff just walked in and wants to talk to you himself. I'll just give the phone to him! *(walking to Jeff and thrusting her phone into his palm, she then crosses her arms, ready to watch)*

**Jeff:** *(shaking his head in desperation, then slowly holding the phone to his ear while turning his shoulder away from Carol, his entire demeanor changes as he puts on a fake, cheery tone towards his mother-in-law)* Mother! So good to be able to talk with you! To be honest, I was just thinking about calling you today! This is a pleasant surprise! *(listening)* I know! I was so disappointed to find that out as well! Yes... I'm afraid it's true; it *does* look like I'll have to go in for a work-related activity.

**Carol** glowers at **Jeff** and he turns his back completely to her.

**Jeff:** Where? Oh, we'll be in a suite... er... a “sweet” little conference room, according to the boss. It's certainly nothing to cheer about! *(listening again)* I'm afraid there won't be time later. I think it's going to be pretty much an all day thing. Food? I'm sure they'll have *something* there. Probably some dry turkey and soggy potatoes to get by on. *(listening)* No, Mother, don't worry. I'll make sure they pass the food. In fact... *(smiling to himself)* I have a feeling that there will be a *lot* of passing going on that day!

**Carol** appears to have gotten a bit suspicious and is attempting to make eye contact with **Jeff**, but he turns away a little further.

**Jeff:** Yes, you're absolutely right. Money certainly *is not* everything! But...as much as I'm going to hate missing out on dinner with you *and* having to work on a holiday... I think it's the right thing to do.

**Jeff** takes a few steps away from **Carol** as if about to speak confidentially. However, **Carol**, already suspicious, follows behind **Jeff** and ends up directly behind him without him noticing.

**Jeff:** You know... Carol's had to do without nice things for so long, and if working on a holiday will help provide a little more... for her... then that's something I don't mind sacrificing for. *(listening)* I knew you'd understand, Mother! Okay... talk to you soon!

**Jeff** taps the “end call” button with a smile on his face when he freezes, sensing **Carol** behind him. He taps the phone screen (obviously activating the front-facing camera icon) and slowly points it over his shoulder to see how close **Carol** is behind him. He noticeably jumps when he sees her directly behind him, arms crossed, and clearly perturbed. He slowly lowers the phone and places it on the table next to him. He does not have the fortitude to turn around to face her.

**Carol:** Honestly, Jeff? Please look me in the eye. *(Jeff slowly, very sheepishly, raises his head)* How much of what you just told my mother is true?

**Jeff:** *(sighing)* Um... not all that much. *(gathering himself)* It's not for work. I'm sorry I made you angry.



**Carol:** *(a bit softer, but still clearly perturbed)* I'm not angry as much as disappointed, Jeff. If you didn't want to go to my mother's, I wish you could have just been honest about it.

**Jeff:** *(ashamed)* You're right. I *do* actually enjoy going to your mother's. It was just that after Presley gave out the pair of Lions tickets for saving the Whitaker account, I got caught up in the excitement and wasn't thinking straight—

**Carol:** *(interrupting)* Wait... wait a minute... Presley's giving you Lions tickets? *That's* why you didn't want to go to my mother's?

**Jeff:** Yeah, well, it shouldn't have mattered because I knew we already had a prior commitment...

**Carol:** *(softening)* Come here *(holding out her arms; they embrace)*

*They embrace with **Jeff** facing the audience.*

**Carol:** You could have just told me that. I know how hard you worked on that account. Both Mother and I would have understood. Tell you what... I'll call Mom and explain everything. I know she'll be very understanding. And besides... I actually think it'd be kind of *fun* to go to the Lions game with you.

**Jeff:** *(eyes suddenly opening wide in alarm)* Um, honey... I think you're going to want to sit down for this...

*Blackout.*