



“PHARISEE WANNABE”
(the 1st of a 3 part series)

Written by Joe Rieger

CAST

- Joey LaFrance: Twelve year old boy who is trying really hard to earn his way into heaven
- Puppet 1 (Terrence): Joey’s concerned friend who is “in the know” about Jesus and salvation
- Puppet 2 (Todd): Joey’s friend who is preoccupied with food, but still knows the truth about Jesus

SETTING: Boy’s room with a chair and a puppet stage

(Enter Joey LaFrance , plops down in a chair and picks up one of many books spread out over the floor)

JOEY:

I'm never going to be able to read all these books on religion. First of all, I don't even understand what I'm reading. *(Picks up a book)*. This one's called "We're Pond Scum." It says that we evolved from slime billions of years ago and there's no such thing as God. Sounds gross ... it also sounds stupid. *(He throws book down and picks up another)*. This one says I'm a god, you're a god, everyone's a god –god. Sounds like an "Old MacDonald's Farm" to me. Funny, I don't feel like a god. And if I were a god, why do I make so many mistakes? Who comes up with this stuff anyway? *(Tosses the book down and goes to pick up another)*. Now this could be just what I'm looking for.

(He tries to pick up this big heavy book and falls down lifting it. He remains sitting, blows off the dust, opens the cover and begins to read to himself).

Hmmm. It's all about obeying commands and being really religious. It says if I obey all these commands and complete all these good deeds before I die, I might get into heaven. Hey, it sounds hard but at least it makes sense. I'll give it a shot.

(Enter Todd and Terrence - puppets ... Todd is carrying a football)

TERRENCE:

Hi Joey. What's with all the books?

JOEY:

Oh hi Todd, hi Terrence. I'm trying to learn about religion and how to get to heaven. Let me tell you, it's not going to be easy. Here's the book I've decided to read next *(Joey tries to pick it up to show them and can't. Instead he points to the title)*. It's called "The Giant Rule Book -10,000 Commands To Live By."

TODD:

Sounds really hard. How do you know if it's true?

JOEY:

It must be true – otherwise they wouldn't have made it into a book.

TERRENCE:

Give me a break, Joey. There are lots of books out there that are just plain wrong and many are full of lies. Not every book that you read is true. Boy, you've read every false book in the pile, but you never read the one true Book.

JOEY:

What book is that?

TODD & TERRENCE

(both answer together) The Bible!

TODD:

Is this why you haven't been playing with us after school? We missed you at our football game today.

TERRENCE:

Yeah, you should have seen the block I put on Ole Todd Boy here. Knocked him right on his butt. *(Terrence demonstrates the block and knocks Todd down again).*

TODD:

OOW! Joey tell him to stop. That was a cheap shot.

JOEY:

Com'on you guys. This is serious business here. I want to get to heaven. There are 10,000 commands that I have to learn, plus there's a lifetime of good deeds that need doing.

TERRENCE:

What are you talking about Joey? This book is filling your head with crazy ideas.

TODD:

Yeah Joey, when did you stop being a kid and start being a Pharisee?

JOEY:

Pharisee? What's a Pharisee?

TERRENCE:

The Pharisees were a really strict religious group back in Jesus' time. They went overboard making up a whole bunch of their own laws. They were totally uncool and forced everybody to obey their really tough laws.

TODD:

Jesus was always getting on their case because they were hypocrites. *(Pause)* What's a hypocrite anyway?

TERRENCE:

A hypocrite is someone who pretends to be really good in public, but behaves differently when people aren't watching. They say one thing and do another. Jesus wasn't fooled by them though – He's God, remember? He really let them have it.

JOEY:

So what does this have to do with me and getting into heaven?

TERRENCE:

If you read the Bible, instead of all these other whacky books, you'd know that God wants to have a relationship with you. He's not into religion and all these crazy rules. He loves you Joey and He wants you to know Him through His Son, Jesus.

TODD:

Yeah Joey, Jesus tells us in John 14 – "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

TERRENCE:

Now that's the truth! This "Giant Rulebook" isn't going to get you into heaven.

JOEY:

Hey, you try it your way and I'll try it my way. Besides, I only have 9,999 more rules to memorize.

TODD:

Let's go Terrence, he just doesn't get it. Let's play football – we're kids, remember?

TERRENCE:

Yeah, let's play football. Linebacker blitz ahhhhhh! (*Terrence slams into Todd and tackles him ... both disappear below the stage*)

TODD:

(*from below the puppet stage – out of sight*) Unnecessary roughness. Where's the flag ref?

(Joey shakes his head after Todd's remark, picks up the big book and starts reading ... fade to black)

THE END