

“Shine”

(Adapted from “The Skit Guys: Let your Light Shine”)

Rally Sunday 2015

September 13, 2015

*Pr. Saul & Pr. Jennifer enter carrying a bunch of Christmas lights. Lights are strewn around the pulpit & lectern. Pr. Saul & Pr. Jennifer are taking lights off around her house.*

Pr. Saul: Alright, Pastor Jennifer, we got the Christmas Lights off in the back of the house, you want to take down the front now?

Pr. Jennifer: Yeah, let’s do the front. Thank you so much for helping me. If it wasn’t for you I don’t know what I’d do. I’m just not tall enough to reach them! Thank you.

Pr. Saul: No problem. I’m happy to help. Even I need a ladder.

Pr. Jennifer: Alright. I’ll work on some of the small decorations over here.

Pr. Saul: Hey! Is that the house you were talking about? The one across the street?

Pr. Jennifer: Yep. That’s the house.

Pr. Saul: They leave their lights on all year long?

Pr. Jennifer: They leave their lights on all year long.

Pr. Saul: Get out.

Pr. Jennifer: Can’t. Wish I could.

Pr. Saul: So why all year?

Pr. Jennifer: They change the bulbs according to the different holidays throughout the year.

Pr. Saul: You’re kidding.

Pr. Jennifer: No. Do you see a smile on this face? No, I’m not kidding.

Pr. Saul: So during Lent, they use purple bulbs?

Pr. Jennifer: Absolutely!

Pr. Saul: So... Like the Fourth of July?

Pr. Jennifer: Those bulbs become red, white, and blue.

Pr. Saul: Thanksgiving?

Pr. Jennifer: Harvest colors.

Pr. Saul: Halloween?

Pr. Jennifer: Black and orange.

Pr. Saul: Here's one, Memorial Day?

Pr. Jennifer: Camouflage.

Pr. Saul: Get out.

Pr. Jennifer: Can't. Wish I could.

Pr. Saul: That's got to be so embarrassing for the neighborhood.

Pr. Jennifer: Oh, it is. It's like a huge albatross. People talk about them all the time and when there is no holiday, they change those bulbs for red hot chili pepper lights.

Pr. Saul: Red hot chili pepper lights?

Pr. Jennifer: Red hot chili pepper lights.

Pr. Saul: Give me one reason why I should celebrate the pepper?

Pr. Jennifer: Can't. Wish I could.

Pr. Saul: I don't even want to know what they do for Valentine's.

Pr. Jennifer: No you don't. But I will say this; those lights stay on all year long.

Pr. Saul: You neighbor's are kinda like Motel 6®.

Pr. Jennifer: That's a real disturbing thought. I'd never thought of it that way. My husband, Matthew wants us to imitate them. "Oh, come on just leave them up a little while longer. They look so festive. Do what they do. Come on get in the spirit." I mean, for me, when the Christmas season is over, it's over. Finished. Nada. Zip. You box them up, you know what I mean? I'm ready to put it all away on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Pr. Saul: You do realize that Christmas is a season, and it lasts until Epiphany Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, right? What are they teaching at seminary these days?

Pr. Jennifer: Why do you have to get all preachy here with me in my front yard? Can you just relax and be cool for a couple minutes?

Pr. Saul: Let me think about that for a minuteNO. You could be like those people down the road. They're the type, you know, that kept their Christmas lights up all year but only turn them on after Thanksgiving.

Pr. Jennifer: Ughhhh... you are terrible. I'm taking a stand here. I'm not going to change my mind on this, alright?

Pr. Saul: Rats. I was hoping I wouldn't have to climb the ladder again.

Pr. Jennifer: I'm sorry. But when you get up there, you can feel maybe a little bit closer to God.

Pr. Saul: (Starts to go) I'm going to get my gloves. I'll be back in a minute. (Exits)

Pr. Jennifer: Alright. (Looks at house) I mean, come on. Isn't Christmas enough? We decorate our house to the nines, we even put out the manger scene. We always have a real Christmas tree. I mean we do it all. But why would I leave them out for the whole year? I mean what am I going to do New Year's Eve? Put the baby in swaddling confetti? I can't do that. I mean when it's over it's over, and you box it up. Why isn't that enough?

(Thinks)

Why isn't that enough? Okay, it isn't enough. To box up Jesus when I get tired, and take Jesus out whenever it's convenient for me and only for a short time. I mean this isn't just the holidays it's my whole life. I compartmentalize things and never really let Jesus shine in all of my life. (She gets it) That's why my husband wanted me to leave the lights on. He's so sneaky that way. And I guess if someone were to compare the lights on the front of my house to the inside job in my heart, my heart would be very dark. And it's not God, it's me. Okay, so what do I do with this information? I gotta change, I guess. So, I will, uh, I will let God shine in my life, in the inside of my heart.

I will let Jesus shine on the dark stuff; my sin, my bad habits, my selfishness, the bitterness that's kind of taken over the joy over the years. I will let Jesus shine on the happy stuff – the good things I see in the world. It's time to LET JESUS SHINE!!!!!! I will let my Christmas lights stay on a little longer. I will let my lights be an outward symbol, a commitment of the way that I want Jesus to shine in my life this year. Okay, they'll stay on. And to make matters worse, I'm standing on my front yard preaching to myself. This is really bad. I hope nobody can see me.

(Pr. Saul enters.)

Pr. Saul: Hey I got my gloves. You ready to do this?

Pr. Jennifer: Yeah, um, about that. I decided to, um, leave them on.

Pr. Saul: You're gonna leave them on?

Pr. Jennifer: Yeah, I'm gonna leave them on. Yeah. And I'm gonna need some help putting these lights back up on the back of the house. (Picking up more lights)

Pr. Saul: How long are you going to leave them on?

Pr. Jennifer: Well, for just a little while...uh... maybe All year.

Pr. Saul: All year.

Pr. Jennifer: All year.

Pr. Saul: You're gonna leave your lights on all year?

Pr. Jennifer: Yeah.

Pr. Saul: You're gonna be ridiculed for that, you know. Made fun of. Everyone's probably gonna talk about you behind your back too. You're gonna be like the neighbor guy that we were making fun of.

Pr. Jennifer: I know.

Pr. Saul: Alright, but why the change of heart?

Pr. Jennifer: That's just it, it's a heart thing. I want to shine. Jason Mraz once said, You can turn off the Sun But I'm still gonna shine. Tyra banks once said, "Never dull your shine for someone else."

Pr. Saul: Oh yeah, and Martin Luther King Junior once said, "*We were born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not in just some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.*"

Pr. Jennifer: I'm glad that I'm not the only one who preaches in the front yard. Maybe you should save some of this for the pulpit.

Pr. Saul: Yeah, yeah, I know... but I think you've got a point here. Just think of the way you could use this as a tool to teach the whole neighborhood about God's light in our lives. God's light shines brightly – so brightly. And you and I can be beacons of that light, shining it around our own neighborhoods, through Fergus Falls, through Minnesota, and through the world. That is our job – to shine with the light of Jesus! Can I get an AMEN?

Pr. Jennifer: AMEN! Pastor Saul, I want to shine God's light! I want to shine the light of Jesus for everyone to see. *(Starts singing This little light of mine and sings it louder and louder until it's pretty obnoxious.)*

Pr. Saul: Pastor Jennifer, do you ever wonder what people from church would think if they saw what you do in your spare time?

Pr. Jennifer: Oh man, that would be so embarrassing. I'm glad none of them are watching!

Pr. Saul: I totally agree. Let's just keep this preaching from the front yard stuff between us, okay?

Pr. Jennifer: Ah-greed!

*(They shake hands and exit)*

THE END