

## THE RETURN OF JOHN AND MARSHA

by JOHN COSPER

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** A man listening to a self-help recording about forgiveness finds himself listening to a real life forgiveness situation. Can John ever forgive Marsha?

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** The skit revolves around Ted and his facial and body reactions to what he hears. The more he gets into it, the funnier it will be.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2M, 1F

**TOPIC:** Forgiveness

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 18:21-35

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon starter, seeker services

**CHARACTERS:**

TED

JOHN - a voice over artist (voice only)

MARSHA - John's ex-girlfriend (voice only)

**PROPS:** An iPod and ear buds, a bench

**COSTUMES:** Casual attire for Ted

**SOUND:** Off stage microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Neighborhood sidewalk

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*Ted enters and sits on the bench. He presses play on the iPod. Note: John and Marsha are voices on the recording Ted is listening to. Ted should be very emotive with his face and body, listening along as the drama in his ears heightens.*

**JOHN:** This is a recording on 'How to Forgive'. In this recording, you will learn the difficult but necessary skill of forgiveness. Forgiving others is never easy, especially when that other person has cut you deeply. But anyone can forgive with two important forgiveness facts. Forgiveness fact number one: God forgave me for everything.

**TED:** God forgave me for everything.

**JOHN:** Forgiveness fact number two: I can forgive anything.

**TED:** I can forgive anything.

**JOHN:** Very good. When we remember God has forgiven us of everything we will ever do, how can we not forgive someone for one thing? There is nothing, and I mean nothing that we cannot forgive when we remember--

*Sound effect of a door opening.*

**JOHN:** (*angry*) What are you doing in here?

**MARSHA:** John, I need to talk to you!

**JOHN:** How dare you come in here! Can't you see I'm working?

*Ted reacts silently, shocked by what he is hearing, sucked into the drama.*

**MARSHA:** You're working?

**JOHN:** Didn't you see the little red light was on?

**MARSHA:** I can't see anything through my tears! Oh John, I'm so sorry!

**JOHN:** I told you, Marsha, it's over!

**MARSHA:** How can you say that? After all we've been through?

**JOHN:** If you think you can beg me to come back after what you did--

**MARSHA:** It was a simple mistake! I'd never do anything to hurt you!

**JOHN:** How many times have we been through this?

*Ted continues to listen silently, wanting John to forgive Marsha.*