



*The Rock is a Youth  
Ministry of Ascension  
Lutheran Church*

## **My 'Oly Lydie**

*Based on Romans 12:1-2*

<b>Mrs. Pearce:</b>	<b>Peri</b>
<b>Maid:</b>	<b>Lauren</b>
<b>Eliza:</b>	<b>Allee</b>
<b>Freddy:</b>	<b>Matt</b>
<b>Henry:</b>	<b>Mattias</b>
<b>Col. Pickering:</b>	<b>Austin</b>
<b>Mrs. Higgins:</b>	<b>Kelli</b>
<b>Alfred (Father):</b>	<b>Michael</b>

*Setting: A parody of "My Fair Lady." Eliza Doolittle arrives at door of Henry Higgins, wanting to buy lessons on how to be a real Christian. Henry, Col. Pickering, and Mrs. Higgins chatting in the parlor. Pearce, Maid, Freddy, Henry, Pickering, & Mrs. Higgins all speak very proper "British" English. **Eliza** and **Alfred** speak "street" English, dropping "h's".*

*Mrs. Pearce: (Knock at door. Mrs. Pearce and maid open door. Eliza and Freddy stand at the door.) May I help you?*

*Eliza: Is this the residence of the renowned Christian teacher, 'Enry 'Iggins.*

*Maid: Why yes.*

*Eliza: I 'ear 'e can moyk a real Christian outta', me, so I can be loyk all those otha' fine loyde' Christians out there*

*Maid: (To Freddy.) And who are you?*

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- Freddy: *(Glazed look on his face.)* I have often walked down the street before, but the pavement always stayed beneath my feet before. *(Eliza, Maid, and Mrs. Pearce look at one another puzzled.)*
- Eliza: Don't ask. 'E just follows me wherever I go, and says the strangest things.
- Mrs. Pearce: Hmm. Please come in. Come this way... *(The group walks to the parlor where Henry and Pickering are sitting.)*
- Henry: I'm telling you, Pickering, why is it Christians are so bad at learning how to be good Christians?
- Mrs. Higgins: Come now, Henry, I think you exaggerate.
- Henry: Do I, Mother? It seems so often when one Christian takes a stand on something, he makes ten other Christians despise him.
- Pickering: Hmm. We are sometimes too often a contentious bunch.
- Henry: While scripture tells us others are to know Christians by their love, but so many of us are known only by what or whom we don't like.
- Mrs. Pearce: *(Interrupts the conversation.)* Sorry to interrupt, Professor, but this young lady, is here to see you. Oh, and the strange young man that has been singing out in the street every night followed her to the door, too.
- Freddy: *(Glazed look on his face.)* All at once am I, several stories high, knowing I'm on the street where you live.
- Maid: Would you like us to allow them in, or throw the baggage out?
- Henry: Nonsense. *(To Eliza.)* And to what occasion do we owe this honor, miss?

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Eliza: Doolittle. Eliza Doolittle.

Henry: Very well, Miss Doolittle. I'm Professor Higgins and my esteemed colleague here is Col. Pickering. Oh, and this is my mother, Mrs. Higgins.

Eliza: Pleased to meet you.

Mrs. Higgins: At last, a young lady comes calling on you, Henry. Very pleased to meet you, Miss Doolittle.

Eliza: Pleased to meet you, Mrs. 'iggins.

Henry: And, again, what brings you here?

Eliza: Well, I'm ear to toyk Christian lessons. You know, lessons on 'ow to 'bye a Christian and live an 'oly loyfe.

Henry: Hmm. Interesting. Mother, Col. Pickering and I were just discussing such things. Please, have a seat. (*Eliza sits.*)

Pickering: So, my fair lady, what seems to be the problem?

Eliza: It's these first two verses in Romans chapter 12 (*opens Bible to Romans 12:1-2*).

Henry: And what do these verses say?

Eliza: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy..."

Henry: Stop.

Eliza: Stop? But I 'aven't gotto the 'ard part yet.

Henry: Yes, but the very start gives us the context for all that follows. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy..." You see, the context for all that follows is God's mercy...or God's love.

Pickering: He's right, Eliza. Before we can even hope to understand what it means to live a Holy life we have

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to understand that we view all things in the light of God's love.

- Mrs. Higgins: That's why we have salvation to start with—not our doing, not because we are Holy, but because of God's love demonstrated for us in all he has done, especially on the cross.
- Pickering: And that Love is the basis for any and all of God's holiness that is reflected in our life. If God's love isn't present, or we try to make it our own holiness, it's just hollow holiness.
- Eliza: 'Ollow 'olliness? So your saying I can't even begin to live an 'oly life if I'm not tuned into that context -- that it's not me living an 'oly life, but me living in the light of God's mercy or love.
- Henry: Exactly, continue, Eliza.
- Eliza: (*Reading.*) "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, 'oly and pleasing to God. — this is your spiritual act of worship."
- Henry: Stop.
- Eliza: I don't get it. 'Ow can 'oy give my body as a living sacrifice?
- Henry: We'll get to that, but for now notice what this sacrifice is: an act of worship.
- Pickering: He's right again, Eliza. Too often we equate worship with merely a service we attend or a set time of the week in which we gather with other believers.
- Mrs. Higgins: While those times of worship are important, this verse seems to be saying we engage in true worship of God in how we give—that is sacrifice—of our daily lives in honor of God. (*Knock on door.*)
- Mrs. Pearce: I'll get it. (*Maid and Mrs. Pearce answer door.*) May we help you?

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- Alfred: 'Ellow, mum. I'm lookin' fo' me daughter, Eliza Doolittle? She wouldn't be botherin' you good people now, would she?
- Maid: *(To Mrs. Pearce.)* I told you we shouldn't have let the first two in.
- Mrs. Pearce: Nonsense! Right this way, Mr. Doolittle. *(Group walks to the parlor.)*
- Maid: Sorry to interrupt, Professor, but we seem to be up to our armpits in Doolittles today.
- Eliza: *(Embarrassed to see her father.)* Awwh, what are you doin' 'ear?
- Alfred: Just watchin' out for me own flesh-in-blood, is all, Eliza. Can you blame a father for that, I ask?
- Eliza: Now where were we in my lesson? Oh, yes, Romans 12:2.
- Mrs. Higgins: I can read that. *(Reading.)* "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
- Alfred: 'Old it right there, Governor. What exactly are you teaching me little girl 'ere?
- Henry: This is where the author of Romans sums up the living of a Holy life: the life God wants Christians to live. You know, holy or "set apart".
- Alfred: That sounds a bit snobbish, doesn't it, Governor?
- Pickering: No, actually, so long as you take it in the context of God's love, it's just the opposite.
- Henry: Pickering is right. Where as the pattern of the world is to live for yourself, the pattern God would have us live is to imitate Christ—to live (and even die) for others.

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- Mrs. Higgins: So you're separate from the bad stuff in the world—the selfishness, greed, and other worldly values.
- Eliza: And then for all that bad stuff we substitute showing kindness for others, and obeying God's values of love toward him and other people?
- Henry: Exactly. And that brings us to the last part of Romans 12:2. "Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will."
- Alfred: Aw, now there's the middle class morality that I've always said it was so impossible to achieve, Governor!
- Eliza: Awe, why don't you go back where you came from, Daddy, and let the good professor teach me!
- Henry: Your father is right, in a way, Eliza. God's will—his good, pleasing, and perfect will IS impossible for us to achieve on our own.
- Pickering: What Professor Higgins is saying, Eliza, is we can only achieve it in a limited extent, and only through relying on God to do it in us. We must live in the power of the Holy Spirit—God's power.
- Eliza: So when will I become a 'igh class Christian Loydy?
- Mrs. Higgins: Eliza, there is no class with God. We all become his children when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior.
- Higgins: And then to live a holy life, you do what should come naturally after you are saved by faith in Jesus: you grow closer to God...
- Pickering: ...who's holiness, in turn, is reflected in your life which becomes a living sacrifice, a spiritual act of worship...
- Mrs. Pierce: ...so you become separate from the bad things in the

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world...

Maid: ...and inclined to do the things that please God...

Eliza: like obeying him, showing kindness for others, living in the power of the 'oly Spirit and imitating Christ.

Henry: Pickering, I think she's got it!

Pickering: By George, she's got it!