

Start

Lord hath made. Rejoice and be glad therein.
 SINGERS. *(Uplifted, but not looking particularly joyful.)* "We've got that joy, joy, joy, joy down in our hearts. Down in our hearts. Down in our hearts. We've got that joy, joy, joy, joy down in our hearts. Down in our hearts today."
 REVEREND. Real good, kids. Well, it's been a busy day and I've been in the car all day today, rushing from place to place, offering comfort and counsel to some of our brothers and sisters in crisis, catharsis and confusion. As I sat in the various kitchens, offices and hospital rooms, I was made aware of all the different kinds of problems we encounter here on this journey called life. And I said to myself, Beverly, what is this thing we call life? Is it nothing but a collection of problems, disappointments and heartache? Or do we make it that way with our endless wants, needs and desires? And if it is we ourselves who create all this unhappiness, why do we do it? Why don't we realize that the slender and fragile canoe of life can be so easily overturned in the turbulent rapids of the world? Why don't we just relax and take things as they come? And not expect so much. And why do we feel we have to call somebody when we're troubled? Why don't we just keep it to ourselves? Why do we feel the need to unload it on somebody and make them drive all the way out to our house on the hottest day of the year? Why do we cry and moan and bend somebody's car till they think they're gonna die? Why don't we say to ourselves, before we pick up the phone, "Now is this really a problem or am I just bellyaching again?" Let us remember in these times of confusion, distress and sorrow, that when it seems you can't go on, you probably can. And when you think to yourself, there's just no answer, you're probably right. Remember friends, our time here is short. Shorter than any of us can imagine. And if you feel your life is nothing but a pit of unrelenting torture, try to make the most of it. After all, tomorrow is another day. Alright. Now we got a lot more show for you, so don't go away. We're welcoming a new sponsor to the program tonight. *(Reading from his notes.)* Depew's Funeral Home. Where they combine a thrifty, no nonsense

approach with Christlike sensitivity to answer your funeral needs. Alright, kids. Take us into the commercial.
 SINGERS. "We've got that joy, joy, joy, joy down in our hearts. Down in our hearts to stay!"

BLACKOUT

END OF ACT ONE