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Chapel Transcript:September 19, 1975 - Jerry Lewis

Holy Spirit Research Center, Oral Roberts University

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STAMPS: President Roberts comes now to introduce our wonderful guest in chapel, in this chapel service. President.

ORAL ROBERTS: Here is a man who kept his word. He said it on national television that he wanted to come to our chapel and to meet our students, faculty and staff, and he's here. I'm honored to present the one and the only and the great Jerry Lewis. (applause)

JERRY LEWIS: Thank you. (applause) Thank you. Thank you very kindly. I am uh very, very delighted who have been told to be here. I uh, I never knew that I would wind up with the umbilical again. I have uh, I have no planned speech per se. I have been accused over the years of having a way with words. The suit comes up Wednesday, but uh, I uh, I just thought of something as I mentioned that. I have a marvelous situation with my, with my six sons and I have had that for many years in that I have a very strong, very, very firm alignment with youth per se with my sons mainly. I relate to them very strongly and we have the kind of a father-son situation that is an enviable one simply because they'll do as I say. Uh not so much because I am father, they are sons, but because we have the understanding that we respect what we are one for another, and I ask their help and their guidance in a variety of things. And over the years I have promised from the time they were that big if they were ever to give me a joke. a gag, or riddle, whatever, if I would ever use it in the presence of an audience, namely a performance such as this and/or just greeting people I would deposit five dollars in their bank account. Well the little one, Joseph, he's ten, and he could easily be the next Dillenger. He sits up at night figuring ways to grab that five. He'll come up with a little gag or a riddle or a gag, a joke, and if I don't use it he doesn't get the five. He gets very frustrated. But he told this to me prior to my leaving Los Angeles, I think I'm going to give him the five. He said, "Father, I have to ask you a very important question," and he always stands like he's Bob Griese, you know. That means he's looking to get

me, see. I said, "Well what is it that you want to know, my love?" He said, "I would like you to tell me if you know why when a baby is born they cut the umbilical cord?" I said, "No, why do they cut the umbilical cord?" He said, "So the baby don't go pht-t-t-t." I think he meant why they tie it off. But anyhow, uh, I'll give him ten dollars, uh.

I have uh, I have a very, very strong feeling and I think you'll find uh once we get to know one another a little bit that you'll find I am either opinionated or I just have very strong feelings. But uh, which is very much like the Yogi Berra remark. He said, uh, "Let's go and have dinner." I said, "Where do you want to eat?" He said, "I don't want to eat at that restaurant, nobody goes there. It's always so damn crowded." So uh, but he said it, I didn't. Give me a break, folks.

Uh, i-uh, I wanted very much to uh, to come here a long time ago and I was uh talking to uh Oral through his interpreter just this morning uh--(applause) about the fact that uh I did want to come for a variety of reasons and uh the number one reason was that about uh 20 years ago I did a film that I had written, a very, very strong point of view. I rarely write messages in my films, because they can't really be a message of any consequence when a guy goes (yells) but uh, (applause) the message that I had in mind was that I was getting very, very strong feelings of responsibility, having at that time but foursome, uh I'm sorry, five-some, uh. I had very strong feelings about making a comment through humor. Because I deal in humor I am somewhat prejudice. I do believe you can make some tremendous inroads without ever letting the people know you are doing it. And I had a very strong feeling about the youth syndrome in this country. I was getting very tired, annoyed and very strong and very outspoken about the fact that the four percent of the idiots that we laughingly referred to as young people were getting the headlines and all of the shock news. I wanted them to once and for all start saying something about the 96%. So I wrote a film and uh made it and it was a very successful film, the message was there and we did very well with it.

I had uh made 130 some appearances in some of the finest universities in this country. It was at that time when I started to examine my work and/or the relationship that I could maintain with people like Oral Roberts. So for as long as it's been, and I really don't know when the school went up, Oral, I really don't know this. But w-('65) I got ties older than that. Uh, i-prior to that of course uh when I was doing the swing of all the universities it naturally was not here. When it was built and then my friendship with Oral became a little tighter, I truly wanted very much to come to see if indeed not that I needed to be reinforced, but to see if indeed I was right and I know I was right. The young people, you people, you have to be very careful when someone who's 50 years old talks to you. You have to be very, very careful because they will have a tendency of looking to get you in their, they'll look to curry favor. What they don't know is they shouldn't do that because an audience always knows where it's at after five minutes. I'm not looking to curry favor, I think I'm terrific without your help. What I need to say it that it's just such a good feeling to be able to see some of the work that I had done, not that I believed that what I had uh, what I had imposed upon the world by way of a film did that change the youth structure. There always has to be, there always has to be a reason for me to do something. I must be motivated by something. To come here is because I like the man, I like what he represents, and I always feel taller when I'm with him. The young people sometimes there's a turnaround, there's a transference. Sometimes the young people are delighted to be in my presence because I'm only nine. And it's awfully important to maintain that schizophrenia and I truly do not need to stand here as a reliable qualified source on the subject, but I do believe that the schizophrenia that we all enjoy can be turned into a positive rather than a negative. I am indeed nine. I like the fact that I'll be 50 and I am living a good life. We are off welfare now. And uh, I do enjoy that. I enjoy the things I've seen. If I could do it over I wouldn't change anything. But I do love to be nine. I'm not crazy about wearing

a tie. (applause) I am ornery as hell when I'm told wear a jacket and a tie. But I ain't that ornery when he tells it to me because when you are nine you don't like to dress up. But when you can be nine and you can look at the world through children's eyes, it's a wonderful tool and it's a great device. And it's a wonderful, wonderful secret weapon. For those out there that don't think as we do, that are not present in a group such as this today, those dissident factors that don't recognize God and/or the human factor, they are not going to change. I'd like to be positive and say that they will and they can. Maybe one day they will be as fortunate as some of us. Meanwhile, while they're out there and they are in the jungle and they are on our perimeter, we have to have some disguise, some device, nothing devious, just nine. You can get through being nine. Case in point, I walk into the chairman of the board of the Cruceville Steel Corporation and I have to stand in line and wait with some other important people, very important people. I didn't mean that to sound, other important people. What I meant was, yeah, that's what I meant. And there's a man from uh General Dynamics and there's a man from the space agency and there's another man and you have to wait and I'm there to see the chairman of the board. Well I'm ornery enough to call on my disguise. Because as I know my children want my attention they knock over a lamp. And that's where I learned, because when my little Joseph says, "Can I have chocolate, I love chocolate." I said, "Ye, you may have one piece of chocolate," and then I peak in the library and he goes, "One, two, three, four." When I say to him, "Take all the chocolate you want," he goes to the candy dish and keeps walking. He don't want the chocolate, but when he can only have one, he eats the table. He's only a smaller version of us who do the same thing. So I'm standing in that outer office and this is the truth, I can't get anyone's attention and I am indeed frustrated because I ain't so important. There's some pretty important gentlemen there and I am not given what I am now becoming spoiled at getting and that's, "Ah, Mr. Lewis, won't you come in?" I'm spoiled, I like that right away and I ain't getting it and I'm getting steamed.

So I walked over to the executive secretary. I said, "Uh, does the gentleman know that I'm waiting?" She says, "Yes, he knows you're waiting and I'm certain that you will wait along with the other gentlemen." (laughter) I said, "Thank you very much." And there was this lovely floral arrangement right here on this large stand and I just went (yell). I was in there in 4 minutes, (laughter) while the other guys were still waiting standing with a stiff tie. (laughter) Uh, (laughter) I guess the moral of this story is if you're a little jerkier than most you'll get some attention. It is hardly likely that you will perform that kind of an act as an adult. It isn't done. We're taught that there are the social grace. But there are times when you want to call on the loveliness of the whole beautiful thing that we've been given to use and-and those are those guises and those wonderful tools that we have that so few people use. And there's nothing wrong with being childlike. You can get away with by feigning humor. Humor is a marvelous device. It's a great way to get through to people that aren't really listening. If you're at a cocktail party and everyone is standing there with a drink and a smoke and they're just idly not listening to anyone and you're dying to get their attention. Voice, wonderful, (yell--pololly)(snap of fingers). The woman standing like this moves very briskly to the side. (laughter) They are-they are really uh great facilities that we have and I believe that God had a master plan. I'm still terribly impressed with the fact that you can stick your finger in a hole, dial a few numbers and someone says "Hello". I'm still impressed with that. The technology of the world we live in is fantastic, but the thing that impresses me most is the master plan. I really believe God sat down a long time ago and said, "Let's make something. There's space there." And He decided to build this beautiful sphere. I think it came with the dinner, land and water and sky and stuff. I just can't picture him sitting with the weights, two-thirds water, one-third...I don't know that He did that. (laughter) But then He decided we will have people. Of course the dough is beautiful. And the dove is magnificent and the hawk and the eagle and all those things I think, as I say, came on the dinner. He-He wanted people. He didn't know what to call them, so He called a couple of the saints, He said, "Uh, send me a run down on what

you think we should call these things. (laughter) One of the guys came forward and said, "I say /call them all Jewish." He said, "Get the hell out of here." (laughter)(applause)

Then another one came forward and said, "Why don't we call them mechanics?" He said, "We need that for cars later." (laughter) "Call them people." "People, that's terrific." What'll they have? Well, they'll have extremities, and they'll have a mind and b-and we'll do that. Are they all going to be the same? "No, we have to have people and then another kind, so that that kind can (kissing sound) with that kind." (laughter) So the one guys says, (kissing sound) "What's that?" He said, "That's the beginning of more people." (laughter) Is it okay so far? (applause!!!)

I find myself, I find myself almost totally astonished at the fact that a man and a woman through love can conceive, produce that magnificent child, that baby and that baby indeed looks like either one or both of those two people. And the first thing that we check when the birth of a child is there before our eyes two hands, two eyes, two arms, everything is good. There's no way that we can check in there. We only know that it's functioning and it's breathing. And God willing, it'll develop into a 120/70 pressure and it will have a 70-some point beat average of the heart. (cough) But we have no way of examining in there. Now the parental syndrome takes over to implant in that child love, definition, understanding. And it's true worth and what it has from the point of output energy and all of the resources, namely being nine forever. Now there had to be a couple of dozen people based on nothing more than the majority and degrees of people in numbers that have to wonder my presence here--what is it? Well, let's start one (clears throat) the pay is pretty short, I'll tell you that. Comes up with nothing. Because you get a lot of money in your heart when you come here, so a lot of people do stuff without getting paid. Plus the fact, His voice used to be with our people. (laughter, applause) To this day I don't know how we blew it, but we did. (laughter) Thirdly, one of my pet peeves is that nobody is going to know that I was here, not in actual fact. That's also not important, but the fact remains that if you do something

that's terrific and if you do something that's (blowing) self-satisfying and at the same time you're giving pleasure to other people, noone's going to talk about it. And you'll never read it in Joyce Haber's column. But if you go out and molest a child or smack a nun in the mouth, you'll get front page all over the world.

I know two weeks ago I didn't get much press, but I smacked this nun in the mouth, I'm still waiting. (laughter) No, I'm kidding. (laughter!!!)

But the benefits that are derived are so totally selfish and at the same time there is some degree of selflessness 'cause if I can contribute nothing more than the thrill all of you are going to have writing home and calling home and telling them that you saw in person a famous Jewish movie star. HA-HA-HA-HA! (laughter) I-I derive as much pleasure out of being able to make some small contribution to terrific people. It's so fine a line, it's so difficult to be able to spell it out. But everything is related very directly. If you're having a rodeo, you would like to call a guy like Dale Robertson or Jim Arness to come to the rodeo. If you have a chapel, you call someone directly related to the church in some way, manner or form that can identify with those that are present. Well, my being present here from the point of you, from a public's point of view is kind of ludicrous. They probably wouldn't understand that because they recognize the abrasive comic image and what would he do in chapel? (laughter) (yell--"That") is not likely, you see. Ha-ha-ha. (laughter) Look at the people on the shelf and uh..(laughter, applause!!!!) If you think it's easy restraining myself, you're crazy....but there are such tremendous benefits.

ORAL ROBERTS: Jerry.

JERRY LEWIS: Yes, sir.

ORAL ROBERTS: This-this kind cometh not out except by prayer and fasting. (laughter, applause!!!!)

JERRY LEWIS: I'll get you for that. For tho-for those uh, for those doubters and skeptics, I will now publicly say something I-I doubt very strongly that I've ever said publicly before. I would like to consider myself possibly the most religious man that you might ever have met in your life. In my own way, in a way that I'm afraid I must be totally honest with you is somewhat expedient form, I would like to admit to

admit to you that it isn't expedient. I would like to say to you that it happens to be what's functional for me and what's best for me as one of God's uh...it just doesn't happen to be the case. It works for me because it's expedient. I make it work. I don't tell that to my children. I tell my children that it's terrific that I am one of God's real children. And I don't give them a chance to say "But you don't go to church like everyone else." Because the minute I see they take a breath ready to say that I say, 'Cause I have a church in my heart.' Which is a cop-out, but it works for me. I don't want to go to church. I don't want to be told I have to go at Friday at 8 o'clock for the services. I don't like that. For the same reason that I don't buy a gift on December 25th that somebody imposed upon me. Christ's birthday means I should buy three Jews I know a present. I buy them presents June 9th for no damn reason at all. I love June anything or May 6th. I buy presents all year long. And then of course Christmas time, I send cards, a gift in your name was sent to Onassis. (laughter) Whether it's expedient or not I believe that God chose me to do something and in a unique fashion. He chooses people like the president, your president, Oral Roberts. He chooses people like that and proclaims he is there as a servant of God to work on the human condition and to remind them he is indeed there speaking for the Lord. The Billy Grahams and the Oral Roberts of the world that do good stuff are blatantly put there, I believe by our God to do their work and to help them. But what I really believe in my heart is that God ran out of Oral Robertses. There are but a few of them in this world. Thank God we are enjoying them in our time. But God needed more people and as He looks upon me today I say this with reverence, sincerity and humility, I think He picked ball players and some show people to do some stuff. Nothing like a ball player when you're nine years old, boy! And when he bangs one out of the park, especially when you know how tough it is. It ain't that thrilling when he spits tobacco on your foot, but it's a beautiful think to see when he gets that homerun. Now He takes a comedian, an abrasive, loud, caustic comedian and He says, "We will get the attention of the world through the comedian. He will make crazy noises, silly sounds and he will grow up with the young people and their parents. And when he gets their attention through humor,

and they do detect that he might be genuine enough to mean something when he opens his mouth, and once we got them gigglin', he'll tell them about his kids that are in wheel chairs and we'll see if he can take care of that number for us." So I really believe for the first time in my life, I am able to drop an awful lot of the ego we need to be in our business. I am able to drop a great deal of the vanity and to look at the total picture objectively and truly believe that all the stuff that I do, that I earn my living at, has been nothing more than an audition for the heavy work that God had planned for me. And it feels good. For a while I wasn't sure that I liked that. But I have a feeling God checked with some of his boys and they said, "It wouldn't be too terrific to get an evangelist and turn him around and make him a comedian and then get to the people." Could you see Oral Roberts saying "Good morning." (yell-hilolly) (laughter) No. (laughter) So I think that His plan was a good one because humor is a fantastically tremendous weapon simply because if you recall the performance of Robert Redford in a picture that we all enjoyed, maybe "The Sting". He was marvelous. Or Paul Newman. Here is what happens with people when they see someone of notoriety in that particular guise. If Robert Redford were to walk down the street in Beverly Hills, most people will see him and they will nudge one another and point. And that's all they do--nudge, point. Unless it's a young 16 or 17-year-old girl and she'll go (panting). (laughter) But that's about all that happens. Now, interestingly and being totally introspective as well as being objective, I have looked for and tried to recognize it within myself that it happens. When they see a clown, a comedic, abrasive or otherwise, they will usually go ha-hu-huh. That says a great deal to me. A picture (finger snap) of something that he did flips in their mind. For with Robert Redford, although they enjoyed the performance in that once particular film or for all of the films, the mind only spurs a recollection (finger snap) indeed is that man. But they certainly do not say, "Do you remember the line he said to the girl about we'll meet later and do you remember when he turned to Paul Newman and said..." People don't recall that. There is no total recall of that nature. They just recall the performer. The benefit that I have in doing comedy is that you register a visual imprint on the mind. If it

was a pleasurable one then you've got a friend and a fan. If it was a negative one, you never can recapture them, unfortunately. If you in any way insult someone through comedy or utilize them as the brunt of your joke, you will never get them back. Young comics in our business for years have suffered from that until they get older and learn you don't do that, you do it on yourself. So through comedy you have an awareness of through people and with people that you would not normally have in other situations. The proof of the pudding is the telethon. In the most difficult recession, the roughest edonomy in the hista-be-history of our time. When I was told in advance and I didn't have a chance to tell you, Oral. I had letters from Elliott Richardson, George Meany and dear friends, men involved, good men. That's probably the only two I can mention in Washington right now, uh who wrote me that I should not in any way manner or form accept it personally and concern myself with that fact that we couldn't possibly reach anywhere near what we did last year which was 16,129,213. No way we could reach that. So I was prepared to strike out. The strike out would not indeed be personal. But the dignity of my kids is terribly important and I only always want another dollars. If it's one dollar more than the year before, then we have one. If it's a dollar less, I believe we've lost. Now if that's what I need to pump me up to get the job done, it works for me. Well, to have received a pledge of 18 millions 8 hundred and 68 thousand, 4 hundred and 99 dollars and this morning in New York, I should say yesterday morning in New York, they are projecting 20 million dollars and that's what we're going to get. I'm doin' something right and somebody is steering me.

ORAL ROBERTS: Jerry, how many hours did you stay up during that telethon, stay up without sleeping?

JERRY LEWIS: 67 hours.

ORAL ROBERTS: 67 hours.

JERRY LEWIS: We rehearsed. Uh, we rehearsed 40 hour period before air, then I did 21 and a half which put me in a 61 and a half hours, and then there was a 6 hour production meeting that I held in my suite right after the show, so I ran al-almost 60's.

ORAL ROBERTS: When I came you were as fresh and um....(tape cuts off here)

ORAL ROBERTS (continued on side two of tape): The spirit that you had when I walked out on the stage just reached out and-g-engulfed my being. And that's what I think uh millions of people felt about themselves. They felt tha-tha-tha-that beneath the humor an-an-and things li-like that that there was a genuine love reaching out, not only for little crippled children, but for people to have a part. And I think that's what-what we felt here. Wh-when I talked to the kids and the faculty, there was no there was m-n-no big deal except they-they gave twice as much as I expected.

JERRY LEWIS: Well, I had to come here at this time, one because I wanted to, and two it was a perfect time to say 'thank you', now, although in the huge numbers, 10 thousand one hundred dollars may not equate as being relative. It's pretty relative. It's vital. I wish I had the time, I wish I had the opportunity to tell you what that 10 thousand, one hundred dollars is going to do in research, but I think more importantly, Oral wanted me to mention to you that I do not appear there for the 67 hours in that 2-3 days. That's not where it's at, it's the nine to ten months before that where the work really is. And as quickly as I can tell you because Oral said he was sure you would like to know. Twenty six years ago my compulsion began. My need to do this is of no consequence. It's being done. My own secret reason for doing it is mine and that's again unimportant. I was told by the top pathologist in the world that I didn't have a chance. Nobody would know what I was talking about and muscular dystrophy is a-is the 'black plague' or 'smallpox', nobody'd listen to you. We had a half a research institute 26 years ago. We had 17 hundred dollars in the National Treasury. We were paying between my national director and myself, out of our pocket a part-time secretary. So we were quite small. All in one office. To date, I have raised over 191 million dollars. In 26 years we have 14 countries working with us, 756 research pathologists all over the world. We are the 3rd most successful fund raising organization in the world and what couldn't be discussed 26 years ago looks like we can get a cure within the next year or two. With funds, as sad a commentary as it is, with dollars we can. In my lifetime I never thought I'd see the day, I thought I'd do whatever I did and then pass it on to another man and he would continue one day. It looks like I'm going to enjoy the victory dinner, which

I hope you will all be part of. So the involvement of getting stations. I had one station 26 years ago that gave me two hours to do a telethon, I raised 11 thousand dollars. But I only had two hours and I think it went from New York to 48th street. (laughter) That's how far it went. Then I decided I needed more stations. ~~Three~~ years later I had 5 stations. Then I had 9 stations. Then I had 40, 62, 79, 110, 130. Last year we had 195, so I fly all over the country, talking to station managers. I got to remind them that I have kids on hold. They're waiting to live or die depending upon a research facility. I just flew to London 3 weeks ago and cut the ribbon of the Hammersmith Research Center. We opened 9 in the last year with dollars from the telethon last year. I'm happy to announce from every dollar we received, we only spend 7¢ of that dollar for administration facilities, employees salaries, etc. (THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE!!!!!!) I had the kind of an operation that's a well-oiled machine, people that always start with me, well, we'll help you this one time and I look at them and I say "We're going to get ya." And then I bring Michael Newsome in to meet them and I say, "You look at him and tell me you're just going to help us once." (clicking noise) Ray Crock at McDonald's said, "I'll give you a hand." In 1968. "I'll just give you a hand this one year." He gave me a hand. So far he's given me 11 million dollars. And he wasn't going to get emotionally involved. But he sits back there during the telethon he'll like th-(yell). (laughter) I told him I was going to get 'im. I flew to Chicago to get the Brunswick Corporation. I got 'em. And I met a guy behind the desk, that said, "You do this telethon one day every year, huh?" With a cigar, you know? I said, "Yeah, one day every year, meanwhile I'm here in Chicago with you on the 10th of January hoping to provide some more funds for the local area." He said, "Oh, yeah, this is January." He was not a man that discovered radium, let's say that. (laughter) Now, through humor I can get by some of that stuff, because you don't say to a man that you want to get a half a million dollars from "You're a moron." But deep down in here I happen to think he ain't the brightest fellow in the world. But when he wrote the check he became Einstein. (laughter) So I got Brunswick. Then I went after Reynolds aluminum. David Reynolds, chairman of the board, was not going to get involved. So I took

him to a small little clinic in Richmond, Virginia and I had him meet a little boy in the hospital. / Seven years old. Forponz(?) saw me walk into the room, looked at his mother and said, "I can die now, I saw him." I've heard that for 26 years. 'Cause I'm their hero, they think I'm 9, see? But they shouldn't die. And they're the, the loveliest people in the world. They don't ask for anything. They don't say, "Get me out of the wheelchair." They just say "Make it better, other kids shouldn't do that." And they're more concerned with the periphera. What's happening around them. How you feel when you are in their presence. They're super kids, unlike any other handicapped child. And we don't say they're handicapped, they're inconvenienced. The man upstairs goofed. He was busy and He just, He couldn't handle everything. He was undoing Pompeii or something, I don't know. He was checking to see if there was really an Atlantis, whatever God was doing, I maintain, you know, maybe God, but the pressures on Him pretty good. Just watching 800 million Chinese people running around can get you crazy. (laughter) So on the air last year I mentioned that I thought that God goofed and I totally lost central United States. The phones told us immediately, p-f-f-f-f-t. And my people came to me and said, "You're in big trouble, you realize what you said?" I said, "Yes, I know what I said, I said what I believe." In other words, it's okay to say, "God, God bless all of my children, and thank you for the good stuff" and to read all of the parables. That's okay, but to put a clamp on what you feel in your heart? He know you're clamping it. How's He going to believe all that other stuff, "thank you for taking care of my children, and thank you for the bread", you gotta say some of that stuff if you feel it, and that's how I feel. So I sa-I maintained He goofed. He's entitled. What is He set out to make a tidal wave? He didn't plan that, He just wanted to wet the beach. (laughter) So He gave it a little too much p-p-p-p-p-pwhoosh. He's entitled. He's done some pretty, His track record's pretty good, He's entitled to goof. So I walked out in front of 80 million people and I said, "Okay, I'm told I offended the-m-a whole bunch of people in this country. I apologize. I'm sorry that I offended you when I said, 'God goofed.' I cannot for one moment allow you to confuse my principles with my integrity and/or my gratitude. I'm grateful to you for watching. I apologize for

offending you. I hope that makes everything better, but I still say He goofed."

And it turned around. Apparently they just wanted the apology. It turned around and we got a lot of money from that section, we were okay. I will not bastardize myself. I will say what I believe. And the only reason I'm so cocky about it is that I have no qualms about saying I'm sorry. If I'm wrong, I'm going to say I'm sorry. But if I'm right, I ain't going to ever let you forget it. (laughter) Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha. The most dangerous thing I would suspect that you can do is to ever destroy the perspective of an audience that you hopefully one day will enjoy a performance based on comedy. Because I still like to think I earn my living doing that. On the very, very broadest scale, 80 million people. On Labor Day, I think that they understand we're doing something special and therefore I can drop the comic face, but it is a dangerous thing because the moment an audience recognizes that behind that idiocy-like mask might beat the brain of a thinking man, you can destroy their perspective. Some people do not understand that. Well, I can...best explain it this way. I am not going to smoke. I am merely going to use a prop. (laughter, applause) A thinking man, or a normal man will take a cigarette and while talking will tap it and proceed to smoke it. That's the normal way. The clown or the comic that wants to get the laugh takes the cigarette and proceeds to talk. (laughter)

Once you recognize that behind the comic mask is a man who may be thinking and have a brain, you will not accept that. The audience will not accept that he indeed did that because he knew knew better. In order for comedy to work for an audience, the audience must instantaneously recognize he knows no better. The same thing with movement and visuals. A thinking man would hardly turn to walk over there and trip. A comic will have you believe that he didn't turn this part (shuffling noise, laughter) and trip. A thinking man knows enough to switch his weight to the left and make the move to the right. So that if you destroy the perspective of an audience too heavily they cannot enjoy the idiocy that you will then impose upon them, hopefully, the next time they watch you. But I will forego that. Hopefully I will do things visually, large, broad enough that you may just forget that I indeed have an I.Q.

of 11. (yell--HEH-HUH-HUH) Uh...(APPLAUSE)

ORAL ROBERTS: Jerry.

JERRY LEWIS: Yes, sir.

ORAL ROBERTS: When you told of 26 y-y-years ago, are you saying that great things usually begin small? And there's really no shortcut, because that's a great question that all of us face. W-w-we face it as students, how soon can we get (JL: Yeah.) to where we feel we're accomplishing something.

JERRY LEWIS: How quick could I find someone to take this garbage out of my hand. (laughter) I have that, Oral, with my classes, (sniff) and at the University, we have a different kind, my-I am privileged to another kind of young people in that they graduate students and I'm teaching a unique class. It's a class on film direction, so it's kind of specialized, yet at the beginning of every semester, that's what I get. "What's the shortcut?" I don't think they literally mean shortcut, but "How do we get to go where we want to go?" Well, there are no doors that indicate over 30 thousand a year. There isn't a door there that says, 'success, bravo and victory dinners'. There are no shortcuts. The only shortcut I know is sweat. And if you're a comic or a performer, you work in a gin mill on a small road somewhere in upper state New York, hoping to play the roxie one day if it was still there and there's no shortcut. I know an awful lot of stars that were made stars overnight in 32 or 33 years. I was a show business phenomenon. (snap of fingers) 37 years. And I'm performing since I'm 5, so it's-om-I'm almost, it's almost 45 years that I'm on the stage. But people that recall the first film, which was produced and released in 1949, they recognize 26 years ago, that's when he started. What happened to the 20 years before that when I was working in between two strippers in a burlesque couch, "Get outta da way you little Jew." Oh, I was very small at the time. They knew I was Jewish because I wore a big Jewish star. It was about so big. (laughter) The one I have now, is a little smaller, but I designed it for my wife and gave it to her on May some date or June some date, for no reason. But I designed it and the crucifix embraces the star of David. And...(applause) I tried desperately to get the star of David bigger than the crucifix, but I couldn't. (laughter) I think the thing I mentioned to Oral earlier was, we have to really, here I can be somewhat

sermonlike because I believe it. And I think it's important. I think you might agree and you might not. I think we have to take some of the religious stigmas off, some of the tight holds off and recognize that God is groovy. (applause) We go back to my culture where the old Jewish man. What..do..you..want..from..me? As though God planned to attack him. The old, old Jewish man would really think that he was getting through, "What do you want from me?" 'Cause he has a toothache and his daughter, who's Polish came home and said to the mother, "I'm pregnant." And the mother said, "I hope it's yours." (belated laughter) So...(more laughter) there'll be no Polish jokes, except this one Polish man, HA-HA! (laughter) He moved his house four feet to pull up the slack on a clothesline. HA-HA-HA-HA-HA. (laughter, applause) I played golf with a priest in London and if you think that's easy, you need a death wish to do that. And as well as I was playing, I said to him before we played, I said, "Father, I am not going to bastardize myself, I'm going to play this game the way I play it. And I hope that you recognize I mean no disrespect, but I think I would be more disrespectful and less than man that I'd like to proclaim I am if I change my approach to what I believe as a man." And he looked at me and he said, "You be what you are and you say what you say." I said, "You're going to hear some good stuff, father. But as long as you recognize that it's safe with Him, He and I have an understanding. He knows this is all rederick and it's nothing but chatter. I can say anything I want about God openly and I do. Pay attention, dummy, He knows that's words. He also knows what I feel in my heart. That as I say it, even I have a, I have established, it's nothing but words, He knows my heart's giving a little wrench as I say it." And I had the best 18-hole round with the priest, I played so terrific, I never had a curse. It just turned out like that. (applause) But then I purposely poured a beer on myself in the bar, so I could curse. HA-HA-HA-HA-HA.

(confused laughter)

ORAL ROBERT: Jerry, Jerry. (JL: Yes.) You got five minutes.

JERRY LEWIS: Oh, I could do dat on hisses alone. Oh, a wire for me, HA-HA-HA-HA.

So...(shuffling noise) (applause) Well, won't have to cut them again. Ha-Ha-Ha.

I won't utilize all of the five minutes, I'll just sum up by telling you in the most

excinct possible fashion that I can. There has always been a misnomer in our business in that people are so grateful when you come to visit them. W-I really do not believe that is any different th-what I tell my sons. When someone gives you a present, say thank you genuinely, 'cause that's the social graces. But then dash up to your room as quickly as you can, look in the mirror and really take your time and say thank you 'cause that's where it belongs. People are going to give you a gift because you're a good man and people want to remember through love, through some form of generosity, the nice being you are. And they understand that. Although the reverse holds true, as far as my philosophy is concerned. In many cases, when a newspaper man rips my heart out unjustifiably, I send him a case of booze and I just write a card, "I love you anyway." Drive him bananas. He's waiting for me to call and curse him and I send him a present and I find out what his favorite booze is and I write a nice card. The minute I buy it, the pain is out of here, let his mother worry. (snapping) (laughter) Cost a fortune, but I have no pain. (yell-HUH-HUH) So that when people say, it's terrific that you came, it is truly a selfish act. For if indeed we are abnormal, we in the field of entertainment who needs to stand here, who needs the adulation, affection and attention of an audience, if we indeed do what we do because of some psychological hangup, then the thanks comes from here to there. The fact that you were kind enough to allow me to come, that you were so receptive and so ready to hear whatever I had to say. God willing you put it in some form and some context, hopefully. Then I'm a very fortunate man. There were no tickets bought, I did not have to perform, my responsibility was nothing more than being a man in the presence of beautiful human beings. I thank you for that privilege. (THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE) (under applause, I didn't-I didn't even get started. I told him I'd never get started. I go-I could do four hours of-----)(OR: unintelligible.) (JL: Yes.)

ORAL ROBERTS: Jerry, we have a little practice of touching one another in prayer, you-you've seen our telecast many times and you know we do that. And we're going to touch one another with really, I think maybe we'll change it...stretch out hands out toward you, a warm human being that has found uh, some of God's touch upon your

life as we found some of it on ours. And we hope tha someday we'll have more of His touch because the more of Him we have, the better people we are. And we're going to reach our hands out towards you, right now and would you repeat after me this prayer, Dear Jerry Lewis (response) thank you for coming (response) and God bless you (response) your dear wife (response) your six sons (response) and all of your dreams (response) and may you always give God your best (response) and expect God's best back (response) and may you be a great instrument (response) to help all the little crippled children (response) and may many millions of people share the dream (response) and learn that giving (response) is also receiving. (response) God bless you (response) We'll always pray for you (response) at Oral Roberts University. (response) Thank you. (response)

JERRY LEWIS: Thank you. That's lovely, thank you, Oral.

ORAL ROBERTS: (Whew-sigh) (JL: Heh-heh-heh) Jerry said he had just gotten started and he told me at one university he was on for 7 hours non-stop, but he has a tee-off time at the P-Pro-Am and we're going to do just a little uh, taping, so we'll not take time for autographs or things like that. We thank you for coming, Jerry has kept his word and we thank you for that. And you're a great inspiration. God go with you and keep you and he will. Bye-bye. (applause)