

WWJD-TV PRESENTS...

by J. Eric Jackson



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WWJD-TV

Presents ...

Jesus' parables meet prime time

by J. Eric Jackson

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Of Grapes and Greed
2. Who's My Neighbor?
3. Mercy Me
4. Prodigal Protest
5. Multiplication Facts

INTRODUCTION

‘What would Jesus do?’ is part of our pop culture – but what does that really look like? These modernized parables show and tell us via televised live reports, dramatic episodes, and game shows. Included are: 1. Of Grapes and Greed – Some workers labored all day and others a half day, but all got what was promised them. 2. Who’s My Neighbor? – Inna Innkeeper emcees this game show – Will the real Good Samaritan please stand up? 3. Mercy Me – While an unpaid debt creates friction, we’re to extend mercy as God does to us. 4. Prodigal Protest – Whether a son stays or strays, love awaits him. 5. Multiplication Facts – When it comes to money or our talents, growth is the goal. These sketches are ideal for a sermon series or a week of vacation Bible school.

1. OF GRAPES AND GREED

(The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard)

Matthew 20:1-16

Characters

VINEYARD OWNER

JUSTICE E. SAID, Reporter

GRUMBLER 1

GRUMBLER 2

HAPPY WORKER 1

HAPPY WORKER 2

Props

Coins, microphone.

Costumes

Suit and tie for Justice and biblical costumes for the others.

Setting

Outside the gates of a vineyard.

1 *(Scene opens at Center Stage as GRUMBLERS and HAPPY*
 2 *WORKERS line up before the VINEYARD OWNER. The*
 3 *VINEYARD OWNER is handing out coins. The first two to*
 4 *receive coins are the HAPPY WORKERS, and they are very*
 5 *pleased. The last two in line — the GRUMBLERS — beam with*
 6 *excitement, smiling, rubbing their hands together, etc. When*
 7 *they receive their money, they show their disappointment. The*
 8 *two GRUMBLERS grumble to each other, but we cannot*
 9 *discern what they are saying. The VINEYARD OWNER speaks*
 10 *to them ...)*

11 **VINEYARD OWNER:** *(To the GRUMBLERS)* **I have done**
 12 **nothing wrong. I paid you what you agreed to.** *(He exits.*

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- 1 Reporter *JUSTICE* arrives on the scene.)
- 2 **JUSTICE:** (*With mic, addressing unseen camera.*) This is Justice
- 3 E. Said, parable reporter for WWJD-TV, that's What
- 4 Would Jesus Do? live at the corner of Matthew and 20th
- 5 Street. (*Noticing GRUMBLERS, talks to camera.*) Looks like
- 6 there are some upset workers who just got paid for the
- 7 day. Let's see if they'll tell us what is going on.
- 8 (*Approaches GRUMBLERS and motions unseen camera*
- 9 *person to follow. To GRUMBLERS*) Do you have a moment
- 10 to speak to us?
- 11 **GRUMBLER 1:** (*Whiny*) It's not fair. It's just not fair! If you
- 12 were treated the way I was treated just now, you would
- 13 know it's not fair.
- 14 **JUSTICE:** (*Interrupting, to camera*) You heard it here first. Just
- 15 as he said! It is just not fair ... (*Pauses, thinking. Back to*
- 16 *GRUMBLERS*) Wait ... What is not fair?
- 17 **GRUMBLER 2:** We worked hard all day. Ten hours at least!
- 18 Some other people came along, and they only worked
- 19 half a day. Maybe less!
- 20 **JUSTICE:** Who were you working for?
- 21 **GRUMBLER 1:** The owner of this vineyard. (*Points behind, as*
- 22 *though a large vineyard is back there.*) You see, this guy came
- 23 to town early this morning and asked if anyone wanted
- 24 to work in his vineyard for the day, picking grapes.
- 25 **GRUMBLER 2:** We jumped at the chance to earn some extra
- 26 money. He promised us a whole denarius. That's a good
- 27 amount of money for a full day's work of picking grapes!
- 28 **GRUMBLER 1:** (*Shooting a dirty look at the HAPPY WORKERS*)
- 29 But they shouldn't get that much money for working
- 30 half a day!
- 31 **JUSTICE:** (*Puzzled*) What do you mean?
- 32 **GRUMBLER 2:** He means that the owner promised those lazy
- 33 bones who only worked a few hours the same amount of
- 34 money as what we got — a whole denarius!
- 35 **JUSTICE:** (*To camera*) Breaking news! These two workers
- 36 who worked the full day got the same wages as the ones
- 37 who only worked part of the day. Let's go talk to the
- 38 other two workers for a moment. (*Motions to unseen*

1 camera to follow him a few steps to where the HAPPY
2 WORKERS are.) Excuse me. Did both of you work in the
3 vineyard today?

4 HAPPY 1: (*Happily*) Why, yes, we did.

5 JUSTICE: You both seem very happy.

6 HAPPY 2: We are. We only worked three, maybe four hours,
7 and got paid a whole day's wages — a whole denarius!

8 JUSTICE: That's amazing. What a generous vineyard owner!

9 HAPPY 1: Yes, ma'am. He gave us what he promised he
10 would.

11 HAPPY 2: And I'm pretty sure he gave those two (*Motions to*
12 *the GRUMBLERS*) what he promised to pay them.

13 JUSTICE: (*To unseen camera*) Wow! Did you catch that? The
14 vineyard owner is generous and keeps his promises.
15 Let's go back to the first two workers. (*Leads unseen*
16 *camera person back to the GRUMBLERS.*) Let me recap for
17 those viewers who are just tuning in: You two worked a
18 full day picking grapes.

19 GRUMBLER 1: Right.

20 JUSTICE: And these two (*Motions to HAPPY WORKERS*)
21 worked a few hours at most.

22 GRUMBLER 2: Right.

23 JUSTICE: And all four of you got paid one denarius like the
24 vineyard owner promised, right?

25 GRUMBLER 1: Right ... But we still worked harder and
26 longer. At the end of the day, we figured the owner
27 would reward our full day of work with an extra
28 denarius.

29 JUSTICE: So ... did he? Did you get paid extra for working all
30 day?

31 GRUMBLER 1: (*Angry*) No. He gave us just what he promised.

32 GRUMBLER 2: Yes, and that is why we are so angry!

33 JUSTICE: (*To the unseen camera*) There you have it, ladies and
34 gentlemen. These two workers are angry because they
35 got paid what was promised them.

36 GRUMBLER 1: (*Confused, calming down, almost stunned*) Wait ...
37 what?

38 JUSTICE: (*Continuing to address the unseen camera*) That's

1 right. The vineyard owner paid each worker from the
 2 first to the last just what he promised to pay them, and
 3 these two workers are fed up!

4 GRUMBLER 2: *(Calm now, almost ashamed)* Wait ... when you
 5 say it that way, I ... uh ... guess we got paid what was
 6 promised.

7 GRUMBLER 1: *(Apologetic)* Yeah ... I guess we *did* agree to
 8 work for one denarius.

9 GRUMBLER 2: And the owner *did* pay what he promised.

10 GRUMBLER 1: *(Recalling the conversation)* Oh yeah, and he told
 11 us, 'I'm not being unfair to you. I just want to give these
 12 other workers the same as I'm giving you. Are you
 13 complaining because I'm being generous?'

14 JUSTICE: *(To GRUMBLERS)* Ouch. I bet that hurt.

15 GRUMBLER 2: Yeah, maybe the owner was right. Maybe we
 16 don't really have anything to complain about. But
 17 sometimes I feel like I deserve more than other people.

18 GRUMBLER 1: But I guess it *is* the owner's money. If he
 19 wants to be generous, what can I do? Sometimes I just
 20 have a hard time being grateful for what I do have.

21 JUSTICE: *(To GRUMBLERS)* You know, deep down I know
 22 that I need to have gratitude for what God chooses to
 23 give me. He doesn't have to give me anything at all. If I
 24 think about it, I don't deserve anything good at all. But
 25 God gives me lots of great stuff like grace. God is
 26 generous even to the undeserving.

27 GRUMBLER 2: Thank you for that reminder: God is not only
 28 generous, but he always keeps his promises.
 29 *(GRUMBLERS 1 and 2 smile and nod, approach HAPPY*
 30 *WORKERS, and all four leave the scene chatting happily, yet*
 31 *quietly enough that their conversation is not discernible.)*

32 JUSTICE: *(To unseen camera)* There you have it! Just as he
 33 said! This is Justice E. Said, reporting live for WWJD-
 34 TV and the Parable Patrol. And remember, the next
 35 time you get frustrated, and you don't think things are
 36 fair, stop and just be grateful for what you do have.
 37 Remember, God keeps his promises and gives you
 38 everything you need, so why want for more?

2. WHO'S MY NEIGHBOR?

(The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

Luke 10:25-37

Characters

INNKEEPER INNA

(Same show host)

INJURED MAN

(Contestant) — also does Voice Off-Stage

PATTY THE PRIEST

LARRY THE LEVITE

SAMMIE THE SAMARITAN

Props

Applause sign, long-stemmed microphone, optional crutches for Man.

Costumes

Jacket and skirt for Inna and biblical costumes for the rest.

Setting

A game show.

1 *(PATTY, LARRY and SAMMIE are sitting on stools to the right*
 2 *of a dividing screen, but where the audience can see them.*
 3 *Think The Dating Game. The VOICE OFF-STAGE announces*
 4 *...)*

5 **VOICE OFF-STAGE:** *(Not seen)* **Live on WWJD-TV — that's**
 6 **What Would Jesus Do? — from studio B-I-B-L-E, the**
 7 **fastest growing game sensation! It's time to play ...**

8 **ALL CHARACTERS:** *(Saying the name of the game show together)*
 9 **Who's My Neighbor?**

10 **VOICE-OFF-STAGE:** **And here is your host, Inna Innkeeper.**
 11 *(INNA INNKEEPER enters with one of those The Price Is*

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- 1 Right long-stemmed microphones and carrying an applause
2 sign.)
- 3 **INNA:** *(To audience)* Good morning, live studio audience. I'm
4 Inna, the Innkeeper. And now it's time to play *Who's My*
5 *Neighbor?* *(Shows "applause" sign and encourages audience*
6 *to applaud.)* Let's meet our contestants. *(Walks to the three*
7 *seated to right of divider. Talks with PATTY first.)* Hi, would
8 you introduce yourself to the studio audience?
- 9 **PATTY:** *(Proudly)* I am Patty the Priest. I serve in the temple.
10 I am a very important person. I talk to God through
11 prayer and offer sacrifices. People come to me all the
12 time asking for me to pray for them. Surely that makes
13 me the real neighbor.
- 14 **INNA:** Well said, Patty, but we will find out later *Who's My*
15 *Neighbor?* *(Moves down the line to LARRY.)* And who are
16 you? Could you be the neighbor?
- 17 **LARRY:** *(Just as proudly)* I am Larry the Levite from the
18 Hebrew tribe of Levi. It is a very important tribe. Moses
19 and Aaron were Levites, after all. And we all know how
20 important they were. Everyone knows how important
21 Levites are. That should make *me* the neighbor.
- 22 **INNA:** We'll see, Larry. Unfortunately, you and I don't get to
23 decide. *(Pointing to the audience)* They do. *(Moving to*
24 *SAMMIE)* And you are ... ?
- 25 **SAMMIE:** *(Humbly)* I am Sammie the Samaritan.
- 26 **PATTY and LARRY:** *(Ad lib whispering to each other snobbishly)*
27 Oh, a Samaritan. Wow, really? Hmmm.
- 28 **INNA:** A Samaritan? Tell us more.
- 29 **SAMMIE:** *(Hesitatingly)* Well, Samaritans and Jews do not get
30 along so well. You see, they don't consider us their
31 equal, and they never talk to us.
- 32 **INNA:** Oh, I see. Well, best of luck to you, Sammie ... and you,
33 Larry and Patty. *(Walks back over to left side of divider.)*
34 Now, Patty, Larry, and Sammie ... Before the audience
35 will vote on which one of you is the true neighbor, let's
36 meet someone from your past. We won't use his real
37 name in this game show, so studio audience, please put
38 your hands together for a "certain man." *(Holds out*

- 1 *“applause” sign. MAN walks onto Stage Left to INNA.)*
2 INNA: *(To MAN)* Hello, “Certain Man.” May I call you
3 “Certain”?
4 MAN: Certainly.
5 INNA: You and I know that on this game show, we are to
6 keep your identity a secret from our three contestants.
7 Now, you know all three of them, but they may not
8 remember you. But you have a story to tell in which all
9 three of them are involved. On the basis of your story,
10 our studio audience will vote on *Who’s My Neighbor?* *(To*
11 *MAN)* Go ahead and start your story.
12 MAN: Well, I was traveling the road from Jerusalem to
13 Jericho on foot by myself when out of nowhere, I was
14 attacked by robbers and left for dead.
15 INNA: Well, that sounds awful. But since you are here
16 standing beside me, someone must have helped you.
17 Could it be one of our contestants? Tell us what
18 happened next.
19 MAN: Well, I faded in and out of consciousness, but I recall
20 seeing a figure approaching me in the distance in long,
21 flowing robes ... *(Straining to remember)* A priest,
22 perhaps?
23 INNA: *(Turning to studio audience)* Patty the Priest! Was that
24 you?
25 PATTY: *(Excited)* Yes, it was!
26 INNA: And for a chance to be the neighbor, Patty, tell us
27 what you did when you came upon this injured man.
28 PATTY: *(Proudly)* I crossed to the other side of the road like
29 any respectable priest would do. I couldn’t become
30 unclean, you know. Think of all the trouble that would
31 cause me. *(Oooohs and sighs from the audience.)*
32 INNA: *(Not impressed)* OK ... hmmmm ... welllll ... *(Back to MAN)*
33 What do you remember next?
34 MAN: Another figure came close wearing Levite jeans.
35 INNA: *(Turning to audience)* Larry the Levite! Was that you?
36 LARRY: *(Beaming with excitement)* Yes, it was!
37 INNA: And for a chance to be the neighbor, Larry, tell us
38 what you did when you came upon this injured man.

1 LARRY: I am not to be outdone by Patty the Priest! I, too,
2 crossed by on the other side of the road. Oh, yeah! (*Does*
3 *a fist pump in the air.*)

4 INNA: (*Shocked, turning to MAN*) Huh ... well ... so, do you
5 remember what happened next?

6 MAN: Not really. I passed out — I thought for good. But then
7 I woke up in one of your rooms backstage.

8 INNA: (*To audience*) Low, low prices! Continental breakfast
9 included! Game show host by day ... innkeeper by night.
10 (*To MAN*) So you don't recall how you got here? Well, I
11 suspect contestant three has an idea. (*Turns to audience.*)
12 Sammie the Samaritan, tell us how you fit into this
13 story.

14 SAMMIE: Well, first, I'm a Samaritan. I am a person that a
15 Jewish person might consider an enemy. Well, I saw
16 this certain man on the side of the road, and I stopped
17 and checked him out. He was still alive. I suspected he
18 was a Jewish man, but I didn't care. The right thing to
19 do was to help him.

20 INNA: What did you do, Sammie?

21 SAMMIE: Well, I put olive oil on his wounds and bandaged
22 him up. Then I put him on my donkey and brought him
23 to your inn, Inna.

24 INNA: (*Interrupting*) The finest inn this side of the Jordan.
25 Fresh fruit and free Wi-Fi in every room.

26 MAN: (*Looking confused*) What's Wi-Fi?

27 INNA: Sammie, please continue.

28 SAMMIE: Well, I paid for the man to stay here and told you
29 if there's any extra charges, I'll come back and pay
30 those too.

31 INNA: I remember that conversation like it was yesterday.

32 SAMMIE: It *was* yesterday.

33 INNA: (*To audience*) And now, live studio audience, it's time
34 for your vote. Which one of these three (*Pointing to three*
35 *seated CONTESTANTS*) acted like a true neighbor to this
36 certain man? Which one of these three showed this
37 certain man love and compassion? By a round of
38 applause, was it Patty the Priest? (*PATTY stands to little*

1 or no applause.) **Hmmmm ... maybe not. Was it Larry the**
2 **Levite?** (*LARRY stands and waves to little or no applause.*)
3 **Not so much! Last but not least, was it Sammie the**
4 **Samaritan?** (*Encourages audience applause. LARRY and*
5 *PATTY exit.*)

6 **INNA:** (*Calling to SAMMIE*) **Sammie, come on down! You're the**
7 **winner of *Who's My Neighbor?*** (*SAMMIE and MAN shake*
8 *hands and have a conversation no one else can hear.*)

9 **INNA:** (*Stepping forward, talking to audience*) **How often do you**
10 **go to that much trouble to care for someone you love,**
11 **much less someone who is a stranger or an enemy? The**
12 **Samaritan showed true compassion. Compassion means**
13 **you not only say you care for someone, but you actually**
14 **show them you do! That's what being a good neighbor is**
15 **all about. Do you have compassion? If you do, then you**
16 **too can be a good neighbor! Until next time, this is Inna**
17 **Innkeeper saying good night!**

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3. MERCY ME*(The parable of the Unmerciful Servant)*

Matthew 18:21-35

Characters**JUSTICE E. SAID**

Reporter

SERVANT 1*(The bad servant)***SERVANT 2****KING'S POLICE 1****KING'S POLICE 2****Setting**

A quiet city street.

Costumes

Suit and tie for Justice and biblical costumes for the others. It might be fun to pair modern-day police hats with biblical robes for the King's Police.)

Props

Microphone.

- 1 *(SERVANTS 1 and 2 enter stage from left. SERVANT 1 follows*
- 2 *SERVANT 2. SERVANT 1 is agitated. They stop at Center*
- 3 *Stage.)*
- 4 **SERVANT 1: (Upset) I tell you! Pay me what you owe me, or**
- 5 **there will be trouble.**
- 6 **SERVANT 2: (Pleading) Please. I need a little more time. I will**
- 7 **pay you back ... just not today.**
- 8 **SERVANT 1: That is not good enough! I want what is coming**
- 9 **to me now! (JUSTICE arrives on set from Stage Right with**
- 10 **his microphone in hand, motioning to unseen camera to follow.)**

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1 JUSTICE: (*Stops near SERVANTS. Talks to unseen camera.*) This
 2 is Justice E. Said from WWJD-TV — that's What Would
 3 Jesus Do? — and the Parable Patrol, reporting live from
 4 18th and Matthew. I seem to have arrived on the scene
 5 of some sort of argument. (*To SERVANTS*) Would one of
 6 you mind telling our viewing audience what is going
 7 on?

8 SERVANT 1: (*Unyielding*) What is going on is this bum refuses
 9 to pay his debt to me! I lent him money last week, and
 10 now I want it back.

11 JUSTICE: (*To SERVANT 2*) Is this true?

12 SERVANT 2: Well, yes, he (*Or she*) lent me money, but I can't
 13 pay it back right now. I asked for him (*Or her*) to have
 14 mercy on me.

15 JUSTICE: (*To unseen camera*) Mercy ... It's like when God
 16 withholds a punishment we deserve because he loves
 17 us.

18 SERVANT 1: Why should I show him mercy? He owes me
 19 money.

20 JUSTICE: (*To SERVANT 1*) I can tell you are upset. Let me ask
 21 you, have you ever owed money to someone?

22 SERVANT 1: (*Stumbling over his words now*) Well ... I, uh ...
 23 there was that one time ... small amount of money ...
 24 Nothing really.

25 SERVANT 2: (*Correcting*) You mean when you owed the king
 26 ten thousand talents and you couldn't pay it back?

27 SERVANT 1: (*Reluctantly*) Yeah ... that was the time.

28 JUSTICE: (*Shocked*) What? You owed the king ten thousand
 29 talents and your head is still attached to your
 30 shoulders? It would take me one hundred thousand
 31 years to earn that kind of money! (*To unseen camera*) This
 32 reminds me, I think I'm about due for a raise. (*Pause,*
 33 *back to SERVANT 1*) How did you get out of that debt if
 34 you couldn't pay him back?

35 SERVANT 1: (*Under his breath, but still audible*) He showed me
 36 mercy.

37 JUSTICE: (*Straining to listen*) What? A little louder and into
 38 the mic. (*Puts mic under SERVANT 1's nose.*)

1 **SERVANT 1:** *(Louder, to be heard)* He showed me mercy and
2 forgave the debt. He said I no longer owed him the
3 money.

4 **JUSTICE:** *(To unseen camera)* There is that word “mercy”
5 again — the act of withholding a punishment we rightly
6 deserve. *(To SERVANT 1)* You must have been excited to
7 hear that you no longer owed the king an amount you
8 could not pay in the first place.

9 **SERVANT 1:** Yes, I was very relieved.

10 **JUSTICE:** So why are you after this chap ... *(Indicates*
11 *SERVANT 2)* to pay you money he owes you? How much
12 does he owe you, if I may ask? Twenty thousand
13 talents?

14 **SERVANT 1:** *(Quietly again and looking down)* A hundred
15 denarii.

16 **JUSTICE:** *(Straining to listen)* Come again? Into the mic. *(Puts*
17 *mic under SERVANT 1's nose.)*

18 **SERVANT 1:** *(Louder)* A hundred denarii.

19 **JUSTICE:** *(Shocked, long pause)* What? A hundred denarii is
20 like a few dollars compared to the thousands of talents
21 you owed the king.

22 **SERVANT 2:** *(Agreeing)* I know, right?

23 **SERVANT 1:** *(Getting mad again)* And if it's just a few dollars,
24 why won't he pay me?

25 **SERVANT 2:** I don't have the money.

26 **SERVANT 1:** Oh, you have it, and I will get it from you even
27 if I have to shake it out of you. *(Places hands on SERVANT*
28 *2's shoulders. SERVANT 2 rocks back and forth, as if being*
29 *shaken. SERVANT 1's job is to keep his hands in contact with*
30 *SERVANT 2's shoulders and look mad. The effect will be like 1*
31 *is shaking 2, when in fact, 2 is in control of the movement. This*
32 *is a safer way to simulate a shakedown.)*

33 **JUSTICE:** *(Steps away from the scuffle. Calling out)* Help! Help!
34 Come quick! *(Two POLICE OFFICERS enter Stage Left and*
35 *break up the scuffle. POLICE 1 escorts SERVANT 1 off Stage*
36 *Left. POLICE 2 stays to answer questions.)*

37 **JUSTICE:** *(To POLICE 2)* What just happened? Where are you
38 taking that wicked servant?

1 **POLICE 2:** *(Into mic)* Well, sir ... *(Pauses, looks into unseen*
2 *camera. Smiles, waves.)* Hi, Mom! I'm on TV! *(Getting serious*
3 *now. Back to JUSTICE)* Well, sir, the king got word that
4 the servant who was shown mercy was not treating
5 others with mercy. The wicked servant did not forgive
6 the debt of this *(Motions to SERVANT 2)* fellow servant,
7 even though the king himself forgave the first servant's
8 debt.

9 **JUSTICE:** Sounds like the wicked servant was unmerciful.

10 **POLICE 2:** Yes, sir. And the king wanted him to be merciful,
11 just as the king was.

12 **JUSTICE:** *(To unseen camera)* And God wants us to be merciful
13 to others ... to forgive others who do wrong to us ... just
14 like God is merciful to us and forgives us, even though
15 we don't deserve to be forgiven. *(To POLICE 2)* And what
16 will happen to the wicked servant now?

17 **POLICE 2:** Let's just say that justice and not mercy will be
18 served this time. This time, the king will give him what
19 he *does* deserve. *(SERVANT 2 clutches his throat at that*
20 *scary thought. POLICE 2 straightens hat and exits Stage*
21 *Right.)*

22 **JUSTICE:** *(To unseen camera)* And there you have it — just as
23 he said! And this is Justice E. Said, reporting live for
24 WWJD-TV and the Parable Patrol. And remember, be
25 merciful to others, just as God has shown mercy unto
26 you. Forgive as you have been forgiven.

4. PRODIGAL PROTEST

(The Parable of the Prodigal Son)

Luke 15:11-32

Characters

GRACE GIVEFREE

Narrator

FATHER

OLDER SON

YOUNGER SON

EXTRAS

(As called for)

Setting

Scene 1 — A stool at Stage Left for the narrator, Grace, and a table and chairs at Center Stage for the actors in the family.

Scene 2 — Table and chairs removed from Scene 1 and Scene 3.

Costumes

Biblical costumes for all, plus a dirty, raggedy robe and a nicer robe for Younger. Grace may dress in modern clothing instead of biblical if desired.

Scene 1

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(This sketch is presented in the style of a TV show like Masterpiece Theater, where a host introduces the story.)

VOICE OFF-STAGE: *(Could be delivered by an EXTRA)* **And now, What Would Jesus Do? WWJD-TV humbly presents *Crumbs-from-the-Master's-Table Theatre*, a Mount Olive Production. And here is your host, Grace Givefree.**

GRACE: *(Enters left to stool placed near left side.)* **Hello, I'm Grace Givefree. Today's presentation is a tale of travels**

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1 and return, of frivolity and forgiveness, of gluttony and,
 2 of course, grace. Our story opens in the home of the
 3 Lostsons. (*FATHER, OLDER and YOUNGER enter Stage*
 4 *Right and sit at table Center Stage.*) A typical breakfast of
 5 sweet cakes turns sour as the younger son makes an
 6 odd request. Let's listen in.

7 **YOUNGER:** (*To FATHER*) Hey, Dad. I would like my share of
 8 my inheritance now.

9 **OLDER:** (*Upset*) Hey, squirt, you can't ask Dad for your
 10 inheritance money. He isn't even dead yet. You know
 11 how things work. While he is alive, he keeps all his
 12 money. Now, once he kicks the bucket, then you can
 13 have your share. (*To FATHER*) By the way, how do you
 14 feel today, Pops? You look a little pale.

15 **FATHER:** (*To OLDER*) Your concern for my health is
 16 touching, son. (*To YOUNGER*) What your older brother
 17 says is correct. You should not receive your inheritance
 18 until after I die.

19 **OLDER:** (*Snidely*) Told ya!

20 **FATHER:** (*To YOUNGER*) But, since I love you more than you
 21 can know, I will give you your share of my money today.

22 **YOUNGER:** Awesome! (*OLDER rises and leaves abruptly Stage*
 23 *Right. FATHER and YOUNGER rise and follow.*)

24 **GRACE:** (*To audience*) It was very rude for the younger son to
 25 ask his father for his money early. But the father's love
 26 surpasses our understanding. Our story picks up a
 27 week later, and we find the younger son living *la vida*
 28 *loca* — fast and free in a far-off country, surrounded by
 29 people who only like him for his money.

30

31

32

Scene 2

33

34 (*Setting for Scene 2: A stool at Stage Left for the narrator,*
 35 *GRACE. The table and chairs are removed at the end of Scene*
 36 *1. This is a quiet city street.*)

37 **YOUNGER:** (*Enters followed by EXTRAS. FATHER and OLDER can*
 38 *double as EXTRAS too, if they can disguise their appearance.*)



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