

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO CLOWNS

by Mark D. Stucky



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The Gospel According to Clowns

Ten skits on the life
and teachings of Jesus

by
Mark D. Stucky

PRODUCTION NOTES

This collection of skits, based on various passages in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, dramatizes the Gospel story. These skits depend heavily on visual action that can only be briefly and inadequately described. You, the reader, must exercise your imagination to “see” the skit, not just read the narration.

For simplicity’s sake, I will refer to “clowns” rather than “clowns and/or mimes.” Although the skits were written specifically for clowns, they can be adapted for mimes or even “normal” people who want to act out a skit.

Although the skits can be adapted for use by talking clowns, I wrote them primarily for silent clowns. A separate person serves as narrator as needed. The narrator’s job is to read slowly and pause as needed to give the clowns sufficient time to act. Normal reading speed is much too fast. Practice will show how to read the scripts.

I generally refer to a clown with the generic “he” for convenience’s sake, but with make-up and costume, a clown is usually “sexless” — neither male nor female, as Paul described in Galatians 3:28.

My thanks to Beth Bedsworth for inspiration, suggestions, and collaboration in the creation of “Happy Birthday, Jesus” and “The Lost Coin Found.”

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Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Based on John 3:16; Matthew 2:11

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THEME: Christmas.

CHARACTERS: One clown.

LEVEL: Children/adults.

PROPS: Large signs (“Christmas Means . . .,” “Happy Birthday, Jesus,” “If This Is Jesus’ Birthday, What Present Will I Give Him?”), small signs (“To You and Everyone,” “Jesus,” “With Love, From God”), Christmas symbols (tree, candy canes, snowman, Santa Claus, etc.), medium-sized gift-wrapped box, doll wrapped in a cloth, globe, large wrapped box (open on top), funny gadgets (rubber chicken, magic tricks, kazoo, etc.), birthday cake (or cupcake with a candle in it), birthday balloons and/or party favors.

NOTE: This skit is a silent mime. If it is performed for young children, however, the clown or a narrator might ask the children questions or make comments so that the children understand the actions.

MIME ACTION: A sign is visible that reads: “Christmas Means . . .” The CLOWN enters, reads the sign, and scratches his head. The CLOWN motions to the sign and then to a Christmas tree, a Santa Claus, a candy cane, etc., but shakes his head after each.

Then he finds a gaily wrapped box with a sign that reads: “To You and Everyone.” The CLOWN gestures to himself, to all the people in the room, and then to a globe of the world. He shakes the box, listening for any rattle, and then opens it. Inside is a baby doll labeled “JESUS” and another tag that reads: “With Love, From God.”

The CLOWN puts the baby Jesus in a prominent position and goes back to “Christmas Means . . .” sign. He writes underneath or places another sign beside it that reads: “Happy Birthday, Jesus!” The CLOWN brings out a birthday cake, balloons, and party favors. He passes out party favors to the

1 audience, and (with a little help) gets the group to sing “Happy
2 Birthday” to Jesus.

3 The CLOWN pulls a sign out of his pocket reading: “If
4 This Is Jesus’ Birthday, What Present Will I Give Him?” The
5 CLOWN shows the audience a very large, decorated box. He
6 pulls various funny gadgets out of his pockets and puts them
7 in the box. He picks up the box and is about to give it to the
8 baby Jesus when he pauses, looks in the box, shakes his head,
9 and dumps everything out on the floor. He looks at the box
10 again, scratching his head. Then he gets an idea. He climbs
11 into the box and sits in it while gesturing, “I’ll give him myself.”

12 The CLOWN gets out of the box and gestures, “What will
13 you give him?” (*At the end, the children can come sit in the box
14 if they want.*)
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The Blessings

Based on Matthew 5:1-12 (the Beatitudes)

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4 **THEMES:** Discipleship, lifestyle, peace.5 **CHARACTERS:** Two or more clowns and a narrator.6 **LEVEL:** Children/adults.7 **PROPS:** Play money, wine bottle and glass, trash can, toy machine

8 gun, handkerchief, stuffed animal, large pin, two bandages,

9 sunglasses, paper heart, boxing gloves or stick, flower, signs

10 (“Bless,” “Kingdom of Heaven,” “Meekness Power,” “Greed,”

11 “Pride,” “Lust,” “Goodness,” “Children of God”).

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13 *(As CLOWN 1 enters, the NARRATOR holds up the sign “Bless”*
14 *and begins.)*15 **NARRATOR:** Do you know what the word “bless” means?16 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 shakes his head.17 **NARRATOR:** “Bless” means to make better, to enrich, to give

18 as a gift, to make fortunate, to make happy. In today’s

19 world, who are those who are blessed?

20 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 shrugs.21 **NARRATOR:** Some would say, “Blessed are those who are

22 beautiful or handsome.”

23 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 prances, showing off his beauty.24 **NARRATOR:** Some would say, “Blessed are those who are

25 strong . . .

26 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 flexes his muscles.27 **NARRATOR:** . . . and physically fit.”28 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 jogs.29 **NARRATOR:** Some would say, “Blessed are those with lots of

30 money . . .

31 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 pulls out paper money.32 **NARRATOR:** . . . and fancy clothes . . .33 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 does a fashion model’s walk and twirls.34 **NARRATOR:** . . . and an expensive car.35 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 “drives” himself around.

- 1 **NARRATOR:** **But Jesus never thought this!**
- 2 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 acts shocked.
- 3 **NARRATOR:** **Listen to what Jesus said about those who are**
- 4 **truly blessed.**
- 5 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 puts his hand behind his ear.
- 6 **NARRATOR:** **Blessed are the poor in spirit.**
- 7 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 takes a wine bottle and pretends to
- 8 pour a drink and swallow it.
- 9 **NARRATOR:** **Wait a minute, Clown. Not blessed are those**
- 10 **who pour alcoholic spirits, but blessed are the poor —**
- 11 **p . . . o . . . o . . . r — in spirit! In other words, blessed are**
- 12 **those who are not self-righteous, those who are not**
- 13 **proud, those who realize they need God.**
- 14 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 acts amazed.
- 15 **NARRATOR:** **Now try again. Blessed are the poor in spirit,**
- 16 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 tosses the bottle in a trash can. He
- 17 falls on his knees and prays fervently.
- 18 **NARRATOR:** **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- 19 **MIME ACTION:** The NARRATOR gives CLOWN 1 the “Kingdom
- 20 of Heaven” sign. CLOWN 1 acts overjoyed. He hugs the sign.
- 21 **NARRATOR:** **Blessed are the meek.**
- 22 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 picks up a toy machine gun and prowls
- 23 around with a scowl on his face.
- 24 **NARRATOR:** **No, no, Clown.**
- 25 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 stops in his tracks.
- 26 **NARRATOR:** **If we are to continue, you are going to have to**
- 27 **listen more carefully, OK?**
- 28 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 nods.
- 29 **NARRATOR:** **Not blessed are the mean, but blessed are the**
- 30 **meek. Do you know what meekness is?**
- 31 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 shakes his head.
- 32 **NARRATOR:** **Meekness rejects violence and force, but**
- 33 **meekness is not weakness. Meekness is the greatness of**
- 34 **spirit that looks beyond one’s own desires to the needs**
- 35 **of others. Meekness is patience, gentleness, humility,**

1 **modesty, long-suffering. Let's try it again one more time.**

2 **Blessed are the meek,**

3 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 throws the toy gun in the trash. He
4 picks up the "Meekness Power" sign.

5 **NARRATOR: for they shall inherit the earth.**

6 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 2 enters, picks up the globe, points at
7 the globe, sweeps his arm around in a circle, gestures "for you"
8 to CLOWN 1, and hands him the globe. CLOWN 1 happily takes
9 the globe.

10 **NARRATOR: Blessed are the merciful,**

11 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 finds a stuffed animal with a large
12 pin in its paw. He pulls out the pin and puts a bandage on its
13 paw. In the process, however, he gets the pin stuck in his own
14 finger and begins crying.

15 **NARRATOR: for they shall receive mercy.**

16 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 2 takes out the pin and puts a bandage
17 on CLOWN 1's finger.

18 **NARRATOR: Blessed are those who mourn,**

19 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 still cries because of the pain in his
20 finger.

21 **NARRATOR: for they shall be comforted.**

22 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 2 gives him a huge handkerchief and
23 puts an arm around him. CLOWN 1 stops crying.

24 **NARRATOR: Blessed are the pure in heart,**

25 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 1 pulls out a large white paper heart
26 and holds it over his chest. CLOWN 2 holds a smudged, torn
27 paper heart and also puts on a pair of oversized sunglasses.
28 Both CLOWNS look up at the ceiling. CLOWN 1, with the pure
29 heart, smiles and begins waving at something above him. He
30 tries to get CLOWN 2, with the sunglasses, to see something
31 above them, but CLOWN 2 can see nothing.

32 **NARRATOR: for they shall see God. Blessed are those who
33 hunger and thirst for goodness,**

34 **MIME ACTION:** The NARRATOR holds up the "Goodness" sign
35 and walks slowly away from CLOWNS. CLOWN 1, with a pure

1 heart, follows, with arms outstretched, trying to reach the sign.

2 **NARRATOR: for they shall be filled.**

3 **MIME ACTION:** The NARRATOR gives him the sign, and
4 CLOWN 1 rejoices.

5 **NARRATOR: Blessed are those who are persecuted because**
6 **they are good,**

7 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 2 puts on boxing gloves or picks up a
8 stick and starts beating CLOWN 1.

9 **NARRATOR: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

10 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 2 momentarily stops the beating. The
11 NARRATOR gives the "Kingdom of Heaven" sign to CLOWN 1.

12 **NARRATOR: Blessed are the peacemakers,**

13 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN 2 resumes beating CLOWN 1. CLOWN
14 1 puts up a hand, motioning "Stop!" He offers a flower to CLOWN 2.
15 CLOWN 2 is stunned. He slowly takes off one glove in order to
16 take the flower, and then he takes off the other glove. He tosses
17 his gloves and then his sunglasses into the trash can. The
18 CLOWNS shake hands.

19 **NARRATOR: for they shall be called children of God.**

20 **MIME ACTION:** The NARRATOR gives the CLOWNS the
21 "Children of God" sign, and they walk out arm in arm, waving
22 at the congregation.

23 **NARRATOR: We have just seen the ones who are blessed.**
24 **Will you be one of them?**

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The Wise and Foolish Builders

Based on Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49

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THEME: Discipleship, obedience.

CHARACTERS: One or more clowns and narrator.

LEVEL: Children/adults.

PROPS: One or two large cardboard boxes, umbrella, large pair of sunglasses, scarf, magic markers, yardstick, rolled-up paper, rubber mallet, flashlight, sprinkler can, confetti or popcorn, electric fan.

NOTE: If three clowns are available, one is the wise builder, another the foolish builder, and the third is the weather. For two clowns, the narrator does the weather. With only one clown, the narrator does the weather and the clown alternately portrays the wise and then the foolish builders.

NARRATOR: The Bible contains many interesting stories, but we need to do more than just listen to the nice stories. We need to learn from them and follow their examples.

Jesus once asked the people around him, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I say? I will show you what people are like who come to me, hear my words, and put them into practice." Then Jesus told this story.

MIME ACTION: CLOWN enters with a large box.

NARRATOR: A person who does what Jesus says is like the man who built a house with great care. He looked for a good location with a solid rock foundation.

MIME ACTION: CLOWN thumps along the floor with the rubber mallet. He measures the floor with a yardstick. He consults rolled-up paper "blueprints." He puts the box down and hammers it. He carefully draws doors and windows, using the yardstick to make the lines straight.

NARRATOR: He made careful plans and built a strong, solid house. He made nice, sturdy doors and windows. It was a

1 **fine, carefully built house. When he finished construction,**
2 **he moved inside and started living there.**

3 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN sits in the box and smiles.

4 **NARRATOR:** **During the summer, the sun beat down on the**
5 **house.**

6 **MIME ACTION:** The THIRD CLOWN or NARRATOR shines a
7 flashlight on it. The FIRST CLOWN puts on oversized
8 sunglasses and continues smiling.

9 **NARRATOR:** **But the hot sun did not bother the wise builder**
10 **and his house. During the fall, the rain came down on**
11 **the house.**

12 **MIME ACTION:** A sprinkler can — *without* water — is held over
13 the house. The CLOWN inside unfolds his umbrella and holds
14 it over his head.

15 **NARRATOR:** **But the cold rain did not bother the wise**
16 **builder and his house. Along with the rain, the wind blew**
17 **hard. What a storm it was!**

18 **MIME ACTION:** An electric fan is turned on the house. The clown
19 tilts his umbrella, frowns for a few seconds as he shakes his
20 box, but continues smiling, unharmed.

21 **NARRATOR:** **But the big storm did not hurt the builder and**
22 **his house. During the winter, a terrible blizzard hit the**
23 **house.**

24 **MIME ACTION:** Confetti or popcorn is thrown on the house. The
25 CLOWN wraps a scarf around his neck and continues smiling.

26 **NARRATOR:** **But the freezing blizzard did not hurt the wise**
27 **builder and his house, either.**

28 **But not everyone is like this wise builder. Someone**
29 **who hears the words of Jesus but does not do them is**
30 **like the foolish builder.**

31 **MIME ACTION:** A CLOWN brings in a second box.

32 **NARRATOR:** **The foolish builder built his house on loose**
33 **sand.**

34 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN just tosses the box on the floor and
35 quickly draws tilted door and crooked windows.

1 **NARRATOR:** He did not take the time and energy to build
2 the house right. The house had no firm foundation.

3 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN picks up house, wiggles fingers
4 underneath, and shrugs.

5 **NARRATOR:** When he finished his quick construction, he
6 moved inside and started living there.

7 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN sits inside.

8 **NARRATOR:** This house looked similar to the house of the
9 wise builder on the outside, but it was not the same.

10 During the summer, the sun beat down on the house.

11 **MIME ACTION:** The flashlight and glasses are used as before.

12 **NARRATOR:** The hot sun did not bother this builder and his
13 house, either. But in the fall, a storm came along. The
14 wind and the rain blew hard against the house.

15 **MIME ACTION:** Fan is turned on again.

16 **NARRATOR:** This time disaster struck!

17 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN looks fearful, he shakes the house, and
18 then he and the house fall over and roll away.

19 **NARRATOR:** The house built by the foolish builder fell down
20 and blew away.

21 Both houses looked the same on the outside, both
22 shielded their builders from the sun, but the storm
23 showed the difference in their construction.

24 People can be like that, too. When the sun is shining
25 and things are fine, people look the same on the outside.
26 But when a storm of trouble comes, people who are not
27 really following Jesus may fall apart and blow away.

28 If we do not want to blow away in a storm,

29 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN waves from underneath the box.

30 **NARRATOR:** we need to do what Jesus teaches in the Bible.
31 Then our lives will be built on a strong foundation, able
32 to withstand the troubles that come our way.

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The Unforgiving Fool

Based on Matthew 18:21-35

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THEME: Lent, Communion Sunday, forgiveness.

CHARACTERS: Three clowns — 1. Peter/Debtor, 2. Mean Clown/
Employee, 3. President — and narrator.

LEVEL: Adults.

PROPS: Signs (large and small “Sin,” two “\$10,000,000” and a “\$20”
[with string attached to go around clowns’ necks], “7”), magic
marker, notebook or binder, cross.

NARRATOR: Have you ever had anyone do something bad
to you? We’ve all had that happen to us. Sometimes the
same person does bad stuff to us over and over.

The disciple Peter had the same problem.

MIME ACTION: MEAN CLOWN and PETER CLOWN enter.
MEAN CLOWN takes “Sin” sign, swats PETER with it several
times, drops the sign, and leaves.

NARRATOR: What was he going to do about it? Peter asked
Jesus, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who
keeps sinning against me? Should I forgive him seven
times?”

MIME ACTION: PETER picks up the small “Sin” sign. He tears
it up and tosses the pieces away. He then holds up another sign
with “7” written on the left side and smiles.

NARRATOR: Peter was pretty proud of himself. He wanted
to be noble, and he was sure that forgiving someone seven
times was far more than anyone could expect.

MIME ACTION: PETER looks smug.

NARRATOR: But Jesus punched a hole in his puffed-up
pride. Jesus said, “Seven times is not nearly enough.

MIME ACTION: PETER looks shocked.

NARRATOR: Take seven times itself . . .

MIME ACTION: PETER writes with a magic marker on the sign
“X 7.”

- 1 **NARRATOR:** ... and then take that times ten!"
- 2 **MIME ACTION:** PETER adds "X 10 = 490!" and looks even more
3 amazed.
- 4 **NARRATOR:** Jesus continued by saying that the kingdom
5 of heaven is like the following story.
- 6 **MIME ACTION:** PETER and MEAN CLOWN exit. The PRESIDENT
7 CLOWN enters, dressed in fancy clothes.
- 8 **NARRATOR:** One day a rich corporate president checked his
9 company's books.
- 10 **MIME ACTION:** The PRESIDENT looks through a large notebook
11 or computer print-out binder.
- 12 **NARRATOR:** He discovered that one of his employees had
13 secretly borrowed ten million dollars from the company
14 to play the stock market and lost it all!
- 15 **MIME ACTION:** An EMPLOYEE CLOWN with a "\$10,000,000"
16 sign around his neck enters.
- 17 **NARRATOR:** This man did not have enough money to pay
18 back this huge debt.
- 19 **MIME ACTION:** EMPLOYEE pulls out his empty pockets.
- 20 **NARRATOR:** The corporate president angrily threatened to
21 sue his employee's socks off, take his house, his TV, his
22 car, everything he owned, and then send him to jail for
23 embezzlement.
- 24 **MIME ACTION:** The PRESIDENT jabs his finger toward the
25 EMPLOYEE and frowns.
- 26 **NARRATOR:** But the man fell on his knees before his boss
27 and begged,
- 28 **MIME ACTION:** The EMPLOYEE gets down on his knees.
- 29 **NARRATOR:** "Be patient with me, and I will pay you back
30 every last dollar!"
- 31 Well, the kindhearted boss felt sorry for the man.
32 He knew the man could never pay off the huge debt, so
33 he forgave the man of the ten-million-dollar debt and let
34 him keep his job!
- 35 **MIME ACTION:** The PRESIDENT takes the "\$10,000,000" sign

1 from around the EMPLOYEE's neck, tears the sign in half,
2 shakes the EMPLOYEE's hand, and leaves.

3 **NARRATOR:** As the man walked home, free of debt and very
4 relieved, he happened across someone who owed him
5 only twenty dollars.

6 **MIME ACTION:** DEBTOR CLOWN enters with a "\$20" sign
7 around his neck. The EMPLOYEE grabs the DEBTOR and
8 begins to shake him.

9 **NARRATOR:** Although he had just been forgiven of an
10 impossible debt, the man's heart was very hard. He
11 grabbed the other man, and, shaking him, shouted, "Pay
12 back what you owe me!" The other man fell on his
13 knees . . .

14 **MIME ACTION:** The DEBTOR kneels.

15 **NARRATOR:** . . . and pleaded, "Be patient with me, and I will
16 pay you back every last dollar!" But the other man would
17 not listen. He took his debtor to small claims court and
18 then put him in jail on false charges.

19 **MIME ACTION:** The EMPLOYEE drags the DEBTOR over to a
20 table or pew and shoves him underneath.

21 **NARRATOR:** When other people saw this injustice, they told
22 the rich corporate president.

23 **MIME ACTION:** The PRESIDENT angrily re-enters.

24 **NARRATOR:** The president said, "You evil-hearted wretch!
25 I forgave you a tremendous debt just because you begged
26 me. Shouldn't you have mercy on others just as I had
27 mercy on you?" The angry corporate president then fired
28 his employee, sent him to jail, and sued him for the ten
29 million dollars.

30 **MIME ACTION:** The PRESIDENT pulls out the DEBTOR from
31 under the table, grabs the unmerciful EMPLOYEE, shoves the
32 EMPLOYEE under the table, and places another "\$10,000,000"
33 sign around his neck. The freed DEBTOR jumps for joy. The
34 PRESIDENT and DEBTOR exit, leaving the unforgiving
35 EMPLOYEE crying under the table.

1 **NARRATOR:** Maybe we don't take this parable very
2 seriously. Maybe we think that we would never be like
3 that unforgiving fool. If we had just been forgiven of an
4 impossible debt, we would certainly forgive any small
5 debts owed to us. Well, have we?

6 **MIME ACTION:** PRESIDENT and DEBTOR come back with a
7 huge poster with "Sin" painted on it. The unforgiving
8 EMPLOYEE exits the "jail" to bring a large cross over to the
9 poster. He touches the poster with the cross, and the
10 PRESIDENT and DEBTOR tear the poster in half.

11 **NARRATOR:** Jesus forgave us for all of our sin. Our sin was
12 a greater debt than even ten million dollars. Do we
13 forgive others as we have been forgiven?

14 Forgiveness is vital. Jesus warned us that if we are
15 unforgiving, we will end up like the unforgiving debtor
16 in the parable. Forgiveness is not easy. We can't just *say*
17 we forgive someone — we must forgive them in our *hearts*
18 as well. With God's help, let us work hard at forgiving
19 others as we have been forgiven.

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Gone Fishing

Based on Luke 5:11; Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:14-20

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THEME: World Missions Sunday, evangelism, discipleship, church growth.

CHARACTERS: Two or three clowns and a narrator.

LEVEL: Children/adults.

PROPS: Net (cheesecloth or old window curtain), two flashlights, sunglasses, paper crab, old shoe, jump-out-snake-in-a-can labeled "Worms," sack full of paper fish, (optional) "fishing hats" with lures and hip boots.

NARRATOR: This is the story of Jesus calling his first disciples as they were fishing.

MIME ACTION: Two CLOWNS — PETER and JOHN — enter, carrying a net. They might wear fishing hats with lures and hooks and hip boots. They climb into an imaginary boat.

NARRATOR: In Jesus' day, fishing was a big business around the lake called Galilee. Peter, John, their friends, and family made their living by fishing. They fished at night so the fish would be attracted by the light of their torches.

MIME ACTION: PETER and JOHN wave flashlights from their imaginary boat.

NARRATOR: Peter and John were expert fishers, but sometimes even experts have no luck. On one occasion, they fished all night.

MIME ACTION: PETER and JOHN sweep the net up and down the aisles.

NARRATOR: How many fish did they catch?

MIME ACTION: PETER and JOHN look frantically through the net.

NARRATOR: None.

MIME ACTION: PETER and JOHN look disappointed.

NARRATOR: The only things in their net were an old sandal and a crab,

- 1 **MIME ACTION:** PETER and JOHN hold them up.
- 2 **NARRATOR:** and the crab pinched Peter's finger.
- 3 **MIME ACTION:** PETER jumps and runs in circles with the paper
- 4 crab.
- 5 **NARRATOR:** Nothing seemed to go right. John lost all the
- 6 bait.
- 7 **MIME ACTION:** JOHN opens the snake-in-a-can. It jumps out,
- 8 surprising him.
- 9 **NARRATOR:** They fished all night for nothing. When morning
- 10 came,
- 11 **MIME ACTION:** PETER and JOHN put on sunglasses and begin
- 12 folding the net.
- 13 **NARRATOR:** they gave up trying to fish and began folding
- 14 up their net. Just then, Jesus was walking along the
- 15 shore.
- 16 **MIME ACTION:** A third CLOWN enters, or if only two CLOWNS
- 17 are available, the NARRATOR takes JESUS' role.
- 18 **NARRATOR:** Many people saw Jesus and crowded around
- 19 him to listen to his preaching.
- 20 **MIME ACTION:** JESUS turns and looks at the congregation.
- 21 **NARRATOR:** Jesus saw Peter and John on the shore with
- 22 their boat. Jesus knew Peter. Jesus had once visited his
- 23 house and healed Peter's mother-in-law.
- 24 **MIME ACTION:** JESUS walks over to PETER and JOHN.
- 25 **NARRATOR:** Jesus asked Peter and John to take him a few
- 26 yards out onto the lake so that the crowd of people could
- 27 see and hear him better.
- 28 Since Peter and John had no fish to take to the
- 29 market, they thought they might as well do it.
- 30 **MIME ACTION:** PETER and JOHN gesture to each other and nod
- 31 their heads. They gesture "come on" to JESUS, who steps into
- 32 the imaginary boat. PETER and JOHN make rowing motions.
- 33 JESUS mimes preaching.
- 34 **NARRATOR:** When Jesus had finished preaching to the
- 35 crowd, he asked Peter and John how many fish they

1 **caught that night.**

2 **MIME ACTION:** PETER and JOHN shake heads, hold up empty
3 hands, and look sad.

4 **NARRATOR:** “None,” they told him sadly. Jesus responded,
5 “Go out into deep water (*Points*) and try again.”

6 **Jesus stunned Peter and John.**

7 **MIME ACTION:** They look at each other.

8 **NARRATOR:** They thought Jesus was a wonderful faith
9 healer and a fantastic preacher, but he was, after all,
10 only the son of a carpenter. What did a carpenter from
11 the little landlubber town of Nazareth know about
12 fishing? Peter and John were experts at fishing, and they
13 had caught nothing. Did Jesus think he knew more about
14 fishing than them?

15 Well, Peter *was* grateful to Jesus for healing his
16 wife’s mother. . . . OK, though it would be a waste of time,
17 they would do it.

18 Peter said to Jesus, “We worked like crazy all night . . .

19 **MIME ACTION:** PETER and JOHN act very tired.

20 **NARRATOR:** . . . and caught nothing. But because *you* say
21 so, we’ll try again.”

22 So they got their net and went out again.

23 **MIME ACTION:** JESUS steps out of the “boat.” PETER and JOHN
24 take the net and sweep down the aisle again, but at the back
25 of the sanctuary they empty a sack full of paper fish into their
26 net. They return to the front, waving their arms, pointing at
27 the net, and shaking the net so that the fish look alive.

28 **NARRATOR:** Look! This time they caught so many fish that
29 the seams of the net began to break.

30 **MIME ACTION:** PETER and JOHN dump the net at JESUS’ feet.

31 **NARRATOR:** Peter, John, and all the others who saw what
32 happened were amazed. Jesus not only knew more about
33 healing and religion, he even knew more about fishing
34 than they did! He knew more than experts. Then they
35 knew Jesus was more than a faith healer and preacher.

1 **He was from God!**
2 **MIME ACTION:** PETER and JOHN point up.
3 **NARRATOR:** Peter became afraid. Peter remembered how
4 he had been angry with John. He remembered the words
5 he said when the crab pinched his finger.
6 **MIME ACTION:** PETER holds his fingers.
7 **NARRATOR:** The rest of his life had not been very religious,
8 either.
9 **MIME ACTION:** PETER kneels before JESUS.
10 **NARRATOR:** Peter said to Jesus, “Go away from me, sir. I am
11 a sinful man. I am just a bum.” But Jesus said, “Don’t be
12 afraid.
13 **MIME ACTION:** JESUS pulls PETER to his feet.
14 **NARRATOR:** Follow me. From now on, you will no longer be
15 catching fish. From now on, you will be catching people.”
16 **MIME ACTION:** JESUS begins walking slowly out. PETER and
17 JOHN pause, looking at JESUS, the net, and each other. Then,
18 leaving the net on the floor, they grab fistfuls of fish and
19 distribute them to the congregation as they follow JESUS out
20 the door.
21 **NARRATOR:** Peter and John left their boat, their net, and
22 their fish. They left everything and followed Jesus.
23 Jesus also asks each of us to follow him and become
24 fishers of people.
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Barns and Birds

Based on Luke 12:13-31; Matthew 6:25-34

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THEME: Stewardship Sunday.

CHARACTERS: One or more clowns and a narrator.

LEVEL: Children/adults.

PROPS: Table, red boxes (2 large, 2 small), large wad of play money, clear plastic bag of grain, ruler, chair, horn, noisemakers, confetti, pizza (or other food), Coke can or bottle, large bottle of aspirin, plate, fork, large drinking glass, clock, flowers, cross.

(Two small cardboard boxes, painted red, sit on a table at the front.)

NARRATOR: What should be our attitude toward material things? If we have a lot of things, should we feel smug and secure? If we have only a little, should we worry about not having enough?

Jesus once told a story about a wealthy landowner.

MIME ACTION: The CLOWN enters while counting a big wad of play money.

NARRATOR: The man's crops usually produced well, but one year his crops gave him an especially big, beautiful yield. At harvest time, he began putting his grain into his barns.

MIME ACTION: CLOWN pulls out a large clear plastic sack of rice, popcorn, macaroni or corn flakes and pours some into each box.

NARRATOR: Soon his barns were bulging, but he still had much left over.

MIME ACTION: CLOWN stops pouring. He measures the boxes and the sack with a ruler.

NARRATOR: What should he do with all his extra crops?

MIME ACTION: CLOWN shrugs.

NARRATOR: Should he sell them?

MIME ACTION: CLOWN scratches head and then shakes his head.

- 1 **NARRATOR: No. His crops were worth more than the**
2 **current market price. Should he give his remaining crops**
3 **to the poor?**
- 4 **MIME ACTION: CLOWN** looks utterly shocked and then disgusted.
5 He shakes his head violently.
- 6 **NARRATOR: No, I should say not! He was going to keep them**
7 **all for himself because he had to look out for number one!**
8 **He decided to tear down his old barns and build**
9 **bigger barns in their places.**
- 10 **MIME ACTION: CLOWN** replaces small boxes with larger red
11 boxes and pours the rest of the sack into them.
- 12 **NARRATOR: Now he had lots of room for his crops.**
13 **After his harvest was complete, he said to himself,**
14 **"I have plenty of good things stored up for many years.**
- 15 **MIME ACTION: CLOWN** points to the boxes.
- 16 **NARRATOR: Now I can take life easy.**
- 17 **MIME ACTION: CLOWN** sits in a chair.
- 18 **NARRATOR: I can have parties,**
- 19 **MIME ACTION: CLOWN** blows horn, tosses confetti, etc.
- 20 **NARRATOR: I can eat lots of pizza,**
- 21 **MIME ACTION: CLOWN** takes a bite from a slice of pizza.
- 22 **NARRATOR: drink lots of pop,**
- 23 **MIME ACTION: CLOWN** takes a swig from a Coke can.
- 24 **NARRATOR: and have a great time."**
- 25 **But God said to him,**
- 26 **MIME ACTION: The NARRATOR** points at the CLOWN.
- 27 **NARRATOR: "You fool! Tonight you are going to die!**
- 28 **MIME ACTION: CLOWN** clutches his chest and falls over.
- 29 **NARRATOR: Now who will get what you have prepared for**
30 **yourself?" The foolish man had gotten rich on earth while**
31 **remaining poor in heaven.**
- 32 **After telling this parable, Jesus went on to describe**
33 **how we shouldn't worry about material things.**
- 34 **MIME ACTION: CLOWN** holds his forehead and a large bottle
35 of aspirin.

- 1 **NARRATOR:** We should not worry about having enough food
2 to eat.
- 3 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN pulls out a plate and a fork.
- 4 **NARRATOR:** We should not worry about having enough to
5 drink.
- 6 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN pulls out a large drinking glass.
- 7 **NARRATOR:** We should not worry about having the best
8 wardrobe to wear.
- 9 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN shows off his brightly colored clothes as
10 if he were a fashion model.
- 11 **NARRATOR:** Life is more important than all these things.
12 Consider the birds of the air.
- 13 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN flaps his arms like the wings of a bird.
- 14 **NARRATOR:** They do not sow or reap.
- 15 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN shakes his head.
- 16 **NARRATOR:** They have no storage rooms or barns.
- 17 **MIME ACTION:** In a bird-like manner, the CLOWN eyes the red-
18 box barns and then shakes his head.
- 19 **NARRATOR:** Yet God feeds all the birds.
- 20 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN pats his tummy.
- 21 **NARRATOR:** And how much more valuable you are than
22 birds!
- 23 **MIME ACTION:** The NARRATOR points at congregation, then at
24 the CLOWN.
- 25 **NARRATOR:** Consider also how the flowers grow.
- 26 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN “picks” some flowers and smells them.
- 27 **NARRATOR:** They don’t work or make clothes for themselves,
28 but even King Solomon with all his wealth did not have
29 clothes as beautiful as the flowers.
- 30 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN compares the flowers with his own
31 clothes.
- 32 **NARRATOR:** If God clothes the flowers that are here today
33 and gone tomorrow, won’t he be all the more sure to
34 clothe you, you of little faith?
- 35 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN looks ashamed, then nods his head.

- 1 **NARRATOR: You worry too much.**
- 2 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN examines a large clock, chewing his
3 fingernails.
- 4 **NARRATOR: Who of you can add a single hour to your life**
5 **by worrying?**
- 6 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN shrugs.
- 7 **NARRATOR: If you can't do something as small as that, why**
8 **worry about the rest?**
- 9 **So don't worry about the little things of life like our**
10 **culture does.**
- 11 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN throws away the bottle of aspirin.
- 12 **NARRATOR: God knows you need all those things. If you**
13 **make God's kingdom your primary concern, God will**
14 **provide all the spiritual and material things you really**
15 **need.**
- 16 **MIME ACTION:** CLOWN takes a cross and places it in top of the
17 red-box barns.
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