

The Empty Mansions

CHARACTERS: Angel, Woman

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 14:2, Matthew 13:18-22, 19:24

ANGEL: Welcome to heaven. I am here to escort you to your heavenly mansion,

WOMAN: Fantastic. I liked the thought that the carpenter from Galilee prepared a place specifically for me.

ANGEL: Everyone here does.

WOMAN: *(staring up at a mansion they are passing)* Wow! That one's impressive. Who lives there?

ANGEL: *(sadly)* No one.

WOMAN: Oh. It's for someone yet to arrive?

ANGEL: *(Solemn and shaking her head)* No one will ever live there.

WOMAN: But it's so beautiful!

ANGEL: Custom made. Sarah let the worries of life and the seduction of wealth choke out her belief. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle...

ANGEL: Than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. *(pause a beat)* I know several Sarah's. Was it one of them ... NO! Never mind. I don't want to know. *(Changing the subject and pointing toward another house)* That one is gorgeous. I bet someone like Moses or Paul lives there.

ANGEL: *(Solemn and shaking her head)* It was built for a teen named Paul but he took his own life because he had no one to turn to, no one to help him share the pain and guilt her carried.

WOMAN: Are all the mansions in this section never to be inhabited?

ANGEL: Not a one. The one with the silver roof would have been Li Chung's but she never heard of Jesus, so how could she call on him to save her. *(pointing)* That one was for Abdul but he was so bothered by the hypocrisy he saw in the church, he stopped going and gradually all belief died with in him.

WOMAN: What about the one with the sapphire arch?

ANGEL: She believed any one of many paths would bring her here.

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WOMAN: But only Jesus is the way. Someone should have told her.

ANGEL: They did.

WOMAN: Then they should have kept telling her until she ... *(lets her voice fade away)*.
All these mansions, personally prepared, and no one to live in them, no one to laugh and love for eternity in them. What a waste.

ANGEL: What a tragedy.