

Jesus To Dinner

CHARACTERS: 3

PROPS: Optional. Pantomime can be used

COSTUMES: Street clothes.

SETTING: A home

At Rise: Husband is reading paper or playing a video game.

Wife: *(Calling from off stage)* Better do our daily Bible reading; dinner is almost ready.

Husband: OK *(Gets out Bible)* Are we in Matthew?

Wife: I think so

Husband: Chapter 25?

Wife: I guess

Husband: *(Reads in a rather disinterested manner)* Here goes. Matt 25: 37_40. *(Reads passage from the Bible in somewhat disinterested tone.* Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. *(Big deep breath)* For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

(Faster) Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?

(Going even faster with a sing song voice) The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. *(Shuts Bible with a snap)* That's done *(Phone rings)* Hello.....who... *(Shocked)* why we'd be delighted to have you over for dinner tonight Jesus. That would be no inconvenience, none at all. Yes, we'll be expecting you tonight.

Wife: *(Rushing in from off stage, also stunned)* Jesus is coming here

Husband: *(Panicky)* Yes, and we have to get this rat's nest cleaned up. *(Exits in a tizzy. Wife is trying to straighten up when...)*

Wife: I'll put on more food. *(Phone rings. She picks up but is obviously not happy to be interrupted)* Hello. Mom? *(Impatient)* What do you want? No you can't come over tonight. We're having this important guest and I don't have the time..... Yes, I know you're lonely but not tonight.... *(Firmly)* Good bye mother.

Husband: *(Hurries in)* Get the laundry off the shower curtain rod. *(Wife leaves and phone rings. Husband reluctantly answers)* Hello... Harvey. No, I can't help you with your income tax tonight. I have a guest coming over....I know I promised but not tonight.... *(Angry)* No you can't come over and meet him.... Bye.

Wife: *(Entering, fussing with clothes and hair to make them "just right")* We're just about ready. *(They glance*

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around, make a tiny adjustment to a lamp or pillow)

Husband: I'll put the Bible on the coffee table. That way he'll know we are Christians. *(Knock or doorbell)*

Wife: (Breathless) Do you think that's him? Is my hair OK? *(Husband nods "yes", goes to door, adjusts clothes, answers the door, sees it's not Jesus and obviously deflates)* Oh, hello

Motorist: (Worried) I'm stranded. My car just stopped. I think all it needs is a jump. Could you...

Wife: *(Pushing past the husband)* The Johnson's live just 2 miles down the road. Go ask them. They'll help you. *(Slam door in Motorist's face)*

Husband: Thanks for stepping in. *(They both look around, wife glances at her watch)* Let's sit down and be doing out Bible reading when he comes. That will look good. *(Wife nods "Yes". He reads Matthew 25: 41_46)*

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, *(Starts reading faster like before)* I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' *(Wife has become distracted from the reading and is fixing her hair, pulling up socks, anything but paying attention throughout the rest of the reading)*

They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?

(Just sloshing through it now to be done) He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me. *(Shuts the Bible.)* Well that's finished with. *(Pauses, then reopens Bible)* I'll just leave it open here to the New Testament.

Wife: *(Checks watch)* Can't be long now. *(They both look around, waiting, anticipating)*

Motorist: *(Out of Motorist character with a different voice and demeanor)* The Jones continued to wait for Jesus. They never realized that I'd been there three times that night and three times they had rejected me.