

No Room at the (Comfort) Inn

This skit retells Jesus' encounter with the rich, young ruler (Matthew 19:16-30) from the disciples' point of view. The drama raises questions about the importance of material prosperity and the necessity for Jesus' followers to make sacrifices for their faith. First century costumes should be worn if available.

[Three disciples talking as they walk slowly across stage. Although he is not visible, it is as if they are following behind Jesus.]

One: Did you guys get any sleep last night?

Two: Sure did. After walking 20 miles yesterday, I could hardly keep my eyes open.

Three: What's the matter, Matthew, still got that little Galilean girl on your mind?

Two: Yeah, she was sweet. And her father looked pretty well off. You'd probably get a couple dozen goats out of that marriage.

One: Well, I know the thought of all those goats would be enough to keep you guys awake, but it was James' snoring that wouldn't let me sleep. I'll be glad when we get to a village where he's [nodding head toward Jesus up ahead] got followers. They always treat us like royalty— [dreamily] we can sleep in an actual house on actual mats. And maybe then I can put a little distance between me and the "human alarm clock."

Two: Matthew, you've got to be a little less concerned about such earthly matters. You've been listening to the Master, haven't you? Just yesterday he was saying that the kingdom of heaven is more than what you wear or what you own or... where you sleep. It's justice and righteousness and peace.

Three: Well, I've got to admit I'd trade a little righteousness and peace for a hot shower at a Comfort Inn.

One: [looking ahead] Well, boys, I think our hotel reservation just got made. [motioning ahead] Look at who just walked up to talk to Jesus.

Three: Who is that guy? He's wearing some fine clothes. And look at those groovy sandals.

One and Two: Groovy??

Three: O.K., I'm stuck in the Sixties.

Two: That guy's dad is the big sandal manufacturer! If he decides to follow Jesus, we'll be living large and looking good in some cool sneaks when we hit the court.

Three: What happened to justice and righteousness and not being concerned about what you wear?

Two: I'm just trying to elevate my game.

One: Gonna take more than new shoes.

Three: No doubt about it, though, if that guy decides to join up, we will be in line for a raise.

One: Anything's a raise when you're making nothing!

Two: We're not making "nothing." We've got our food provided.

One: [slightly sarcastic] And excellent accommodations...

Two: And we've got plenty of good friends...

Three: [to One] And cute chicks in Galilee...

Two: And we've got a life with a purpose. What more could you want?

One/Three: Just one night at the Comfort Inn!

Two: Well, maybe we'll get our wish. He and Jesus are really discussing something.

[As they move ahead a bit...]

One: I can hear what he's saying. He wants to know what it takes to inherit eternal life.

Two: And Jesus is giving him the Top Five Ways to Get to Heaven.

Three: And the guy says "Been there, done that." What more do I lack?

One: Hear that!? What more do I lack?! That's the \$64,000 question!

Two: Come on, Jesus, tell him! tell him!

Three: [singing and perhaps dancing together] "We're in the money, we're in the money!"

One: Shhhhh. He's saying, "If you would be perfect, take all you have and sell it..."

Two: Yes! How much do you think the guy's worth?! Thousands? Millions!?

[As Three and Two dance around in a circle]

One: "...and give the money to the poor. "

[Dance ends abruptly]

Three: What! Jesus Christ, you've done it again!

Two: [exasperated] That was *our* money he just gave away!

Three: Those were *our* groovy sandals he just turned down!

One: [near tears] Those were *our* reservations he just canceled!

[after a few moments]

Two: [dejectedly] Oh, and look, the guy is walking away...

One: [despondent] And taking his money with him...

Three: [brief pause, regaining composure] Well, I guess he couldn't hack it.

Two: [after a moment] Yeah! It's not just anybody who can live like this.

Three: It takes a pretty strong person to be a part of this group!

One: Someone who's not afraid of a little suffering and hardship.

Two: Someone who puts the needs of the Kingdom before their own needs.

Three: Someone who can give up their attachment to things: nice restaurants, fancy clothes...

Two: [slipping into sadness] Groovy sandals...

One: Hot showers at the Comfort Inn...

[Looking after the rich man who got away]

Three: Is that really the kind of life we want?

Two: [drawing deep breath] Not me! Hey Jesus, wait up [as they begin to move ahead].

Three: [as they all move toward side of stage] I hear we're staying at Mary and Martha's tonight!

One: We'll put James in with Lazarus—he sleeps like a dead man anyway—and I'll take the spot on the living room floor.

[Two stops the others, they face each other]

Two: Can you really think of anywhere you'd rather be?

One: [teasing the others] Welllll...

Three: [to One] Get out of here! Last one there has to share a room with James!

No Room At The (Comfort) Inn
by David Radcliff
New Community Project
718 Wilder Street, Elgin, IL 60123
www.newcommunityproject.org

30 percent recycled content