



Virtual Reality Jackanory – The Story of Zacchaeus

Content and Purpose: A slightly humorous look at the story of Zacchaeus, and how Jesus transforms lives

Cast: 4 main characters, plus a ‘crowd’ (2 either, 2 male) – Person 1, 2 Zacchaeus and Jesus plus a ‘compare’ type person

Props:

Starting positions: The music begins and someone reads – “Ladies and gentlemen you are about to be taken on a roller coaster ride of emotion that may never be rivalled in our time. The Christian Arts and Drama Society welcomes you to “Virtual Reality Jackanory”. Fasten your seatbelts and hold tight – the nightmare is about to begin...*evil laughter*”

(1 and 2 walk on looking confused)

- 1: Who was he anyway?
2: I thought we were just coming to tell a story
1: Yea, a virtual reality story though...those guys in black are going to help...apparently – atmosphere, and, eh, stuff
2: Right, well, best get started then...go on
1: Jericho – A bustling market town in mid Judea and any normal day.
2: The town was bustling away as normal, the children shouting, the women gossiping, the fruit seller...er...selling fruit. In fact, I can almost hear it all now...

(Market noise begins)

- 1: It was easy to see why people liked Jericho – it was really...
2: Happenin’?
1: No
2: Jivin’?
1: Ni
2: Sexy?

(Market noise stops – everyone looks at 2 in shock)

- 1: Eh, no...(nervous laugh) anyway it was, as I said, any normal day (*noise resumes, with a little prompting from 1*). That was until...Zacchaeus came along

(Everyone does a dun dun duh)

- 2: Let’s not overreact, I mean how bad can this guy be?
1: Well did you ever hear the phrase, at least he’s not a tax collector?
2: Eh...no actually
1: (*Thrown a bit*) Right, well, Zacchaeus was a tax collector anyway

(Crowds start to mutter “here he comes” and push back the people to make a path for Zac – he waddles through them)

- 2: What? This is him? This is who you were all scared of? Six more of his size, a beautiful woman and a poisoned apple and you’ve a classic Disney film (*goes on laughing*)
Z: Oh yes, you think you’re funny now, but I feel an income tax rise on storytellers coming on. Oh yes, I think I feel a new conservatory with heated floors coming on as well with that new cash flow...if you catch my drift...
2: You can’t do that!
Z: Watch me (*pauses, looks confused*)...well, eh don’t actually because there’s no appropriate prop handy to illustrate an income tax rise, but just believe me...I will!
1: He will too!

Crowd: The swine!

(Zacchaeus departs through the gap in the crowd)



- 1: Zacchaeus wasn't one of the nicest people you'd ever chance to meet, and the people didn't like him much, in fact they hated him with a passion you can only dream of, despised him with every pore of their being, seething hatred that bit into their very souls (*stops in the realisation he is being looked at by everyone, coughs and shuts up*)
- 2: Anyway, we all know what a normal day in the market town of Jericho was like (*Market noise begins*)
- 1: This day was different
(*Crowd all go "oh", one of them shouts out "we were just getting the hang of that"*)
- 1: ANYWAY this day was different – everyone was a bit more excited
(*Crowd looks round at each other blankly*)
- 2: Come on...excited!
(*One of the crowd goes "I know" and starts doing their noise at double speed in a squeaky voice – the rest join in*)
- 1: I'm not quite sure that's what I meant when...
(*The crowd stop and look annoyed, one shouts, "everyone's an expert aren't they – you're treading a thin line mate"*)
- 2: Anyway, everyone was lining the streets with palms
(*The crowd look confused – 2 looks back and says "it's what I've got written down" then one of them begins to direct them to place their hands on the ground flat down – i.e. lining the streets with their palms*)
- 1: No, in lines down the side of the streets, and palms are a type of tree – you're supposed to be holding leaves
- 2: Anyway – the crowds were on the streets
- 1: In a line
- 2: Because Jesus was coming. The crowd were saying to each other "Jesus is coming"
(*Crowd repeat "Jesus is coming"*)
- 1: "He's a great prophet"
(*Crowd repeat*)
- 2: "He'll probably only want to speak to really important people"
(*Crowd repeat*)
- 1: Crowd, I think they've got the gist
(*Crowd begin to repeat and then stop – realising this is not their cue*)
- 2: Is it nearly over yet, because I'm getting a bit tired of this now?
(*One member of the crowd starts to repeat – and then everyone turns to him and shouts "Shut up"*)
- 1: Basically Zacchaeus couldn't see because the people didn't like him and wouldn't let him through, so he climbed a tree so he could see Jesus and he thought that Jesus wouldn't be able to see him. (*Zacchaeus has been acting this out in the mean time*)
- 2: I think what we're saving on time we could be losing on dramatic effect here...eh, sorry to be a pain! Anyway, Jesus came walking along and everyone got even more excited (*everyone begins to do the market noises again very quickly*)
- 1: How about you just clap and cheer?
(*They clap and cheer as Jesus walks on*)
- 2: But Jesus didn't pay attention to any of them; he went straight over to the tree and told Zacchaeus he was going to afternoon tea with him
- 1: Rather him than me – he'll probably tax the shirt off his back
- 2: Well that's exactly what the crowd thought...
- 1: (*Interrupting*) Eh, sorry no. (*2 looks confused*) This crowd don't do a lot of "thinking"
- 2: Oh right. The crowd were very annoyed at this
(*Crowd makes "annoyed" noises*)
- 1: See they can do it when they try and someone explains it in words of one syllable
- 2: The point of the story is not, however, the dramatic ability of everyone in CADS
- 1: No – otherwise it would have been over a long time ago
- 2: No, the point is, the change that came over Zacchaeus after he had met with Jesus



1: When Jesus showed an interest in him, he nearly fell out of the tree. (*Z mimes this*)
2: Which wasn't nearly so bad as it sounds, because let's face it he had much less far to fall than any normal person. (*Z and J leave*)
1: He went off, had tea with Jesus, and came back to town the next day
2: One second (*to crowd*) a normal market day. (*They disperse and begin making their market noises again*)
1: And said...
Z: Do I owe anyone here money?
(*There is a long silence*)
2: Okay, do you **not** owe anyone here money you swindling little...
1: Calm
2: All right – yes, quite a few people actually
Z: Okay, I'll pay you back 4 times what I owe you
1: The crowd all thought he was mad
(*Crowd all say "Is he mad?"*)
2: But he wasn't...He just realised that with Jesus – it was all
1: Or nothing
2: All
1: Or nothing
2: All
1: Or nothing
(*They repeat this for a while*)
2: Oh look – we're back, you know, here!
(*Crowd all make surprised noises and chat amongst themselves as the music starts. ! and 2 begin to walk off*)
2: You know the way you said at the start that a lot were here to help?
1: Yea?
2: Well, be careful when you say things like that – people have been sued for less
(*The music starts*)
1: Ooer, here comes that bloke again...
(*The narrator from the start –*
Ladies and gentlemen – The Christian Arts and Drama Society accepts no responsibility for any emotional difficulty or personal injury you may suffer or have suffered after this trip into the unknown – merely accept this: you may never experience anything like it again...)