

# Angel Stories Skit #1

Kevin Lee

## The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, Luke 18 v 9-14

Performers x 7

Wingnut/Narrator

Bootlace

Bigwig

Tax Collector

Boy

Priest 1

Priest 2

Props

Back to front collars for Priests

Papers on floor (or omit)

Narrator “Wingnut and Bootlace, two Angels from the Jerusalem Squadron, are waiting together during a lull between assignments. To pass the time, they swap stories about things they’ve seen and heard”.

Wing “Yes, that was a good one!....I’ll tell you one I heard from Geoffrey, the Temple Angel....He went to work one day....actually, he slept in.....again!.....So he raced off and flew into the Temple like a rocket!”

Boot (Shaking his head.)

Wing “Anyway,....then a Pharisee came in.....He must have been a Bigwig, because he had a boy running along behind him, picking up his lolly papers...”

(Priests talking excitedly together...they spot Bigwig arriving.)

Priest 1 “Ah, Bigwig.....You just missed it!”

Big “Missed what?”

Priest 1 “An Angel!....Flew through here like a rocket....whoosh!.(Motioning with an arm)....Everything shook and rattled,....papers flew everywhere!”

Boot “Yes, Geoffrey sure does know how to make an entrance!”

Big (Looking down his nose at the boy.) “Well, pick ‘em up boy!”

Priest 2 "It was mayhem,...glorious mayhem."

Big "He was probably here to see me."

Priest 2 "You?"

Big "Yes, I Fast twice a week,...and pay my Tithes....He knows where his bread's buttered.....And I butter it!"

Priest 1 "We pay our Tithes too, you know?"

Big "But not as much as me!"

Priest 2 "It's not the amount....It's the thought that counts."

Big "Feeble excuse....The bottom-line is the zeros on the cheque....And I put them there!.....when God tots up His sums, He'll see mine and say...."Top-of-the-class!"

Priest 1 "That's a bit arrogant."

Big "No, I'm just thankful that He blesses me so much because I'm so good.....But someone has to come in second and third in every race....so don't be ashamed...(Looking around the roof.)...That Angel should come back again soon,.....now that I'm here!"

(Tax collector enters with head down.)

Priest 1 "Well...(Warning.) Tax Collector!" (Holding arm out toward Tax Collector with hand up...the others do the same.)

Big "Tax Collector!"

Priest 2 "Tax Collector!"

(All move backward giving him a wide berth.)

Big "Oh well, the Angel won't come back now....Not with *him* here!"

Priest 2 "That's true."

Big (Looking up to roof.) "Oh God, I thank you that I'm not like other men are, Extortioners, Unjust, and Adulterers....and specially that I'm not like this Clown from the I.R.D."

Tax (Kneels facing the ground and thumps his breast.) "Oh God,...Have Mercy on me a Sinner."

Big "Someone will have to..."

Priest 2 "Yes,....But, it won't be God."

Big "Nope.....Not on your life!"

Wing "Which one of these went home with his sins forgiven?....what do you think, Boot?"

Boot "Mmm.....Is this a trick question?"

Wing "Nope."

Boot "Ah...The Bigwig of course."

Wing "Why?"

Boot "Well, because he um....He Fasted and paid his Tithes....Faithful and Honest....You can't do much better than that!"

Wing "Nope!.....Wrong answer...The Tax Collector..."

Boot "Why?"

Wing "Geoffrey said as he listened tears came to his eyes, because the Tax Collector was so humble and sincere."

Boot "You can be sincerely wrong you know....I heard about this case in Damascus where..."

Wing (Interrupting.) "Not in this case...Geoffrey said..."

Boot (Interrupting.) "Yeah,....we hear about the things Geoffrey says.."

Wing "Well, I got you that time anyway!"

Boot "Okay....But, I heard this story from Peter over in Accounts..."

Wing "Yes?"

Boot "He said, when they opened the Treasury Box at the Temple there were heaps of nuts and bolts in there."

Wing "What?"

Boot "Someone was putting nuts and bolts in pretending it was money."

Wing "The little rat....who was it?"

Boot "Shall I tell you?"

Wing "Yes!" (Ecstatically.)

Boot "Not telling."

Wing "C'mon...You have to!"

Boot "No I don't!...Geoffrey saw him you know."

Wing "You have to tell me!" (Pleading.)

Boot "Nope....You'd never guess who it is."

Wing "C'mon, tell me....ohh, I'll be your best friend?"

Boot "you already are my best friend."

Wing "Best friends don't do this to each other."

Boot "Yes, they do."

Wing "I'll give you my cheese at lunchtime?"

Boot "Nnn....Nope."

Wing "And my raisins?"

Boot "Nope."

Wing "I won't be able to sleep tonight,....and I'll be really grumpy tomorrow....  
And it'll all be your fault."

Boot "Don't care."

Wing "You can have my cocoa tonight?"

Boot "Nope."

Wing "You can't do this to me."

Boot "Mmm....Yes, I can."

Wing "Ohhh..."

Narrator "Jesus told the story about..."

Wing "And my chocolate?"

Boot "Nah."

Narrator "...About a Pharisee and Tax Collector..."

Wing "You can use my hottie?"

Boot "Nope."

Narrator "Okay boys....show's over." (Motioning them away.)

Wing (Walking away together.) "And I'll let you play with my marbles?"

Boot "Not interested."

End

Narrator “In Luke 18 verse 9-14 The Lord Jesus told the story of the Pharisee and Tax Collector, who both went to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee was self-righteous, and despised anyone who wasn’t like him. But, the Tax Collector had nothing to offer the Lord in return for the forgiveness of his sins. So, he implored the grace and mercy of the Lord as he pleaded, “God have mercy on me a sinner.”

And Jesus said he went away forgiven rather than the Pharisee. In Matthew 23 v 21 Jesus said “And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased, and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.” The Pharisee trusted that he was good enough to merit the Lord's forgiveness. But none of us have anything to offer the Lord except ourselves and our time. And the only way we can receive forgiveness is by the grace and mercy of the Lord, and the promise in first John 1 v 9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

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