

## BE WISE IN THE WAY YOU ACT

*This brief skit can be used to introduce or illustrate a message on personal witnessing. It is appropriate for adults or young people. The players need to be lively and expressive, able to express emotion. Genders can be changed if necessary. Names can be changed or added if necessary. By a judicious use of lighting, all three cameos could be on the stage at the same time with the light focusing on each one in turn.*

*You can download and reproduce this script for personal use or for free distribution to groups such as your local church Bible study group or Christian fellowship. Please include the following acknowledgement: 'Copyright © 2016 by Barry Chant. Reproduced with permission from [www.barrychant.com](http://www.barrychant.com).'*

## INTRODUCTION

---

*Music in the background gradually fades to allow the voice of the Narrator to be heard.*

*Narrator:* The Bible says, 'Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person' (Colossians 4:5, 6).

*Music rises again. A woman (W) enters and takes her seat. Music dies.*

## SCENE ONE

---

*W sits beneath a large sign that says, TRAIN and begins to read a book. Alternately, have a picture or a sign of a train on the screen. A new passenger (Y) carrying a satchel sits beside her.*

I: Hi

W: (Looking up) Hi

I: My name's Ian

W: Eh? Oh... that's nice.

I: (After a puzzled pause.) I'm a born-again Christian

W: (Looks up) You're a what?

I: A born-again Christian.

W: That's what I thought you said. (Goes on reading)

I: Do you know what a born-again Christian is?

W:(Sigh) You're obviously going to tell me.

I: Well, a born-again Christian is someone who's been... er... born again.

W: Wow, I'd never have guessed.

I: What I mean is...

W: What you mean is that I am trying to read my book and you have rudely interrupted me with some nonsense about being born again and you are very sorry and you will now shut up and let me go on reading... OK?

I: OK... *(Pause. Ian sits thinking. Then he begins again.)* Look, what I've been trying to point out is that unless you are born again you cannot—

*W Slams book shut, storms off to another carriage and leaves Yan sitting with his mouth open.*

*Music rises again and then dies when Scene Two is ready to start.*

## SCENE TWO

---

*A street. There is a picture of a street scene on the screen or alternately a sign saying STREET either on the screen or a placard. A man (B) standing head down, looking at his shoes. A Christian (A) approaches, grinning broadly.*

A: Hello, sir. Isn't it a wonderful day!

B: *(Looks up)*. Mmm? Oh... yes, I suppose it is.

A: Look, I have some really good news for you.

B: *(Flat tone of voice – but loud enough to be heard by the audience!)* Do you? I could do with some good news right now.

A: Here, let me show you. *(Holds up very large tract with GOOD NEWS in bold letters across the front so the audience can read it easily.)*

B: So what's this good news?

A: Well, look what it says inside. *(Reads.)* 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and the wages of sin is death – and that includes you!'

B: And that's good news?

A: Well, that's not all it says. As we read on we see that –

B: *(Cutting him off)*. You've read quite enough already, thank you very much. Here am I facing one of the biggest crises in my life and all you want to do is tell me what a failure I am. Mate, I already know I'm a failure. Actually, I'm a flop, a total wipe-out! My life's a mess. And now you want to tell me it's even worse than I thought. Leave me alone, will you. Go and preach to someone else. When you have some really good news, then maybe you can come back and tell me!  
*(Walks off.)*

*Music rises again and then dies when Scene Three is ready to start.*

## SCENE THREE

---

*Francesca is seated in a coffee shop sitting at small table, sipping coffee. Tiffany joins her. There is a photo of a coffee shop on the screen or alternately a shop sign.*

T: Look, I'm terribly sorry, but there don't seem to be any empty tables. Do you mind if I join you?

F: *(Looks up with mild surprise)* Oh, no. No, of course not. Not at all. Please sit down.

T: *(Gets out magazine to read. Then looks up.)* I suppose I could introduce myself. I'm Tiffany.

F: Oh, yes, thank you. My name's Francesca.

T: Do you often come here for coffee, Francesca?

F: Yes, actually I do. They serve a good brew here.

T: It seems sort of warm and friendly, too.

F: Yes. I like that.

T: Sounds like you might be a bit lonely sometimes?

F: Yeah, sometimes I am.

T: It's pretty tough when you don't have friends around you.

F: It sure is. Sometimes I feel like – oh, you don't want to know about how I feel. It's not your problem.

T: You never know, it might be. Look, I know it's none of my business, but actually, I used to be terribly lonely myself once. But then I found a way never to be lonely again.

F: Never? That's a bit over the top, isn't it?

T: *(Laughs)* Yes, I guess that does sound a bit strange. I'd better explain. I have a friend who never leaves my side.

F: You mean your dog?

T: *(Laughs)*. No! Look, I'd better stop speaking in riddles. Forgive me if what I say now sounds a bit preachy, but I'm actually talking about Jesus.

F: Jesus! Hmph. And church? When I needed a friend my church-going neighbours left me high and dry.

T: Oh, I'm sad to hear that, Francesca. It really hurts when people let you down. But actually, I'm not talking about church. I really am talking about Jesus. You know, He does care.

F: How do you know?

T: Well – I know because, if I can put it like this, I was talking with Him this morning!

F: I don't think you should joke about it.

T: No, really. It's just like that. When I pray He really is closer than you could ever imagine. It's pretty awesome, when you think about it...

F: (*wistfully*) I don't know how to pray. Sometimes I wish I did.

T: Would you like to talk about it?...

F: Mm, I wouldn't mind. I certainly need something. But I'm afraid I have to go right now.

T: Francesca, are you here every Tuesday? Perhaps we could have coffee again and talk some more then. I usually meet a friend here. Why don't we all have a cuppa together?.

F: Actually...that would be nice. All right, I'll see you here next Tuesday. Ten thirty? It's been lovely meeting you. See you then (*she rises and leaves.*)

T: Likewise. See you next week... (*Waves, then in a stage whisper to herself as Francesca moves out of earshot*) I'll certainly be praying about it.

*Music rises again and then fades to background the voice of the Narrator.*

*Narrator:* The Bible says, 'Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person' (Colossians 4:5, 6).

*Music rises and then dies.*