

THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT

By Rod

This sketch is to illustrate the point made in Matthew 7 vv 7-12 that it is unusual to find an earthly father who is so bad that he gives his son totally unsuitable presents. Here we meet just such a father.

CAST

Pete *It is his birthday.*
Jonty *Friend of Pete*
Dad *Pete's dad. Probably best played as somewhat pompous and out of touch.*

Pete is on stage. It is his home. Enter Jonty

Jonty Hi there, Pete. Happy birthday.

Pete Cheers, Jonts.

Jonty Did you get any good presents?

Pete I don't know, I haven't opened them yet; I'm waiting for my dad to get back from work. He left before I got up.

Jonty That's very restrained of you. I'm sure he'll appreciate it.

Pete Maybe. If I'm honest, it's more that it's his present I really want to open.

Jonty Are you expecting something good?

Pete Yes. I dropped a lot of hints about wanting a Playstation. He'd have to be pretty stupid not to get the message. *[Enter Dad]*

Dad Hello Peter. Hello Jonty, good to see you. *[Turning to Pete and handing him a present]* Happy birthday son.

Pete Thanks, dad. *[To Jonty. Excited. Feeling present.]* It looks about the right size.

Jonty I reckon you're in luck. Well go on then – open it.

Dad Yes, go on, Peter.

Pete *[Opening present]* It's a bit heavier than I thought. It must contain lots of extra games... *[realising]* or maybe it's because it's a book! A book called... 'The Gardening Year'.

Jonty *[Incredulous]* 'The Gardening Year'!

Dad I'm sure you'll find it really helpful.

Pete *[Staggered]* Yes, dad. Thanks.

Dad I'm glad you like it, son.

Pete *[Sarcastic]* Yes ... it's just what I wanted.

Jonty *[Aside]* Not!

THE END