

DON'T LOOK BACK

By Rod Pellereau

Based on Luke 9 vv 57-62. The Cost Of Following Jesus.

CAST

Captain *A naval captain*

Recruit

Jesus *Heard from off-stage*

Captain is seated at desk. There is a chair opposite. There is a knock at the door.

Captain *Come in*

Recruit *Good morning.*

Capt *Take a seat.*

Sarah (Sitting down) Thank you.

Capt (Looking at Application Form) So you want to join my crew, Mr Fisher?

Recruit *Yes, that's right. (Singing badly.) "A life on the ocean waves is better than going to sea; A life on the ocean waves is the only life for me."*

Capt *Yes, quite. So what experience do you have?*

Rec *I've seen Treasure Island. (Gets up and hops on one leg holding on to chair for support. In exaggerated pirate's accent.) Avast behind me hearties. Shiver me timbers. Ah ha.*

Capt *My ship is not a pirate ship.*

Rec (Chastened. Sits down.) No, no, of course not. I realise that. (Thinking) I've also been on a boating lake a few times. I was pretty good. (Cupping hands to mouth) Come in number nine. Your time is up.

Capt *I see. (Reading form) I see you own a four-bedroomed house.*

Rec *That's right. Really comfortable it is: with a fitted kitchen, en suite shower, beautiful garden. The veg patch is coming on a treat. You should come round sometime.*

Capt So you'll miss it then?

Rec Miss it? What do you mean 'miss it'?

Capt You'll miss all those home comforts when you sign up with me.

Rec I wasn't aware I was going to lose them. I mean, won't I be going home every evening after work ..?

Capt Oh, no, we are going on a cruise that will last indefinitely.

Rec I see. Well that is rather tricky.

Capt How come?

Rec I need to bury my father.

Capt Oh, I am sorry to hear that. Please accept my condolences. When is the funeral?

Rec There isn't one.

Capt Oh, just a simple interment then?

Rec No.. you see, he hasn't died.

Capt But I thought you said you needed to bury him.

Rec Well I will – when he dies.

Capt When is that likely to be?

Rec In ten or maybe twenty years.

Capt Ten or twenty years!

Rec Yes, he's fine really; a bit deaf and forgetful, but fit as a fiddle. But I feel responsible for him. He looked after me when I was young. Now it is my turn to look after him.

Capt That is very noble. But if you join my crew you will be doing something even more valuable. You will be telling people all over the world about my kingdom.

- Rec Well, I suppose, if you put it like that – there are plenty of others who can look after him.
- Capt Good decision.
- Rec *(Gets up to leave)* I'll just pop home and say goodbye to him and the rest of the family.
- Capt *(Rising)* Oh, there is not time for all that.
- Rec What? Why not?
- Capt Because my ship leaves right away.
- Rec What now?
- Capt This very moment. *(Stepping away from desk and reaching hand out to Recruit)* So, are you going to come aboard?
- Rec *(Dithering)* Er... *(Looks at captain and then over his shoulder)*
- Jesus No-one who puts his hand to the plough and turns back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.

THE END