

# THE GOOD DOCTOR

By Rod

*This sketch seeks to illustrate the theological point of 'substitution'; that Jesus took our infirmities upon himself when dying on the cross (e.g. Isaiah 53 vv 4-5, Matthew 8 v 17 and 1 Peter 2 v 24). The healings are loosely linked to The Man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5 vv 1-9, the blind man at Bethesda (Mark 8 vv 22-26) and Jairus's daughter (Mark 5 vv 22-24 & 35-43). At each stage the doctor needs to take on the illness of the person he has just cured and make this obvious to the audience.*

## CAST

Doctor            *Depicting the role of Jesus*  
Mr Smith        *Has an obvious limp*  
Mr Jones        *Blind. Walks with stick*  
Father           *Very anxious as his daughter is so ill*  
Tabitha         *Daughter, Quite young. Is very ill.*  
Reader          *Not heard. Could be one of cast.*

## **SLIDE 1: DOCTOR JOSEPHSON'S SURGERY**

*There is a desk with chair stage right. A patient's chair is set close to the desk. Patients are sitting in front row of audience – but they need not be obvious at this stage. Enter Doctor. Sits at desk. Presses button.*

## **SLIDE 2: NEXT PATIENT PLEASE**

*Mr Smith rises and advances on to stage. He is limping badly and in pain. As he enters sign changes to:*

## **SLIDE 3: DOCTOR JOSEPHSON'S SURGERY**

Mr Smith        Good morning, Doctor.

Doctor          Good morning. *[Consulting notes]* It's Mr Smith? Is that right?

Mr Smith        Yes. That's me. John Smith.

Doctor          Do sit down. *[Gestures to chair. Smith sits]* So how can I help you?

Mr Smith        It's my leg, Doctor. I'm having great difficulty walking.

Doctor          Yes, I couldn't help noticing that you were hobbling. Let me see what I can do. *[Gets up and goes round to where Smith is sitting]*

Mr Smith I'll be glad if you can help. It's really painful and I'm having such trouble getting about.

Doctor Would you stand up. *[Smith stands]* That's it. Now put your weight on me and we'll walk across the room together. *[They walk to stage left, stop and turn. Smith is making pained noises. Doctor encourages]* Now, I want you to try walking on your own. *[Smith walks back across stage without any limp. Doctor stays still]*

Smith Righto. Oh, that's amazing. There's no pain and I can walk normally. I'm completely healed. That's incredible. Doctor, you're a genius. Thank you so much. *[Goes over and shakes Doctor's hand]* Thank you, thank you. *[Exits]* Wait till I tell my friends. *[He skips off down the aisle happily. After a little while the Doctor returns to his seat – clearly limping in the way that Smith had. He sits and presses button]*

**SLIDE 4: NEXT PATIENT PLEASE**

*Mr Jones rises and advances on to stage. He has a white stick and is using it to feel his way. As he enters sign changes to:*

**SLIDE 5: DOCTOR JOSEPHSON'S SURGERY**

Doctor Good morning.

Jones Good morning, Doctor. Well your last patient left in a good mood. He sounded happy. You certainly did the trick for him.

Doctor Yes, he did seem pleased. Now. It's Mr Jones is it?

Jones Yes, Brian Jones.

Doctor So, what can I do for you? Or can I guess?

Jones Yes. It is pretty obvious. It's my eyes. My eyesight's got worse and worse over the years. Now I can hardly see a thing. I was hoping you might be able to do something about it.

Doctor *[Getting up. Still limping. Approaches Jones]* Let me take a look. *[Jones is stage left, facing the audience. Doctor has tube/pot of cream]* I've got some salve here. I'm just going to rub it on to your eyes. *[Rubs on to eyes]*

Jones OK. Do you think it will help?

Doctor Well, tell me what you can see.

Jones I suppose my vision is a little better. I can see some trees. No, hang on – they are moving. Oh yes, they are people.

Doctor I'll just add a little more. It sometimes takes a while to work. *[Rubs more salve]* Try blinking a couple of times.

Jones Hey – that's brilliant. They clearly are people. I can see. I can see as clear as day. Oh, Doctor, thank you so much. This is fantastic. I must go and tell everyone about this. *[Starts to leave. Then turns and returns to Doctor]* Hang on, Doc, I won't be needing this any longer. You might as well have it for someone else. *[Hands him white stick and exits happily. After a pause, Doctor returns to his seat, still limping and now using stick to guide him as he is blind. Presses button]*

**SLIDE 6: NEXT PATIENT PLEASE**

*Father rises and advances on to stage almost carrying who is clearly very ill. As they enter sign changes to:*

**SLIDE 7: DOCTOR JOSEPHSON'S SURGERY**

Father *[Agitated]* Oh, Doctor, you've got to help. It's my daughter. I'm afraid she may be dying. She's really ill.

Doctor *[Rising]* Put her in that chair. *[Moving to girl but still blind and limping. Father does not notice this as he is so concerned for his daughter.]*

Father OK. Is there any hope. She's so hot and feverish. I'm afraid she may even be dead already. I can't see much sign of life. Is there anything you can do?

Doctor Don't worry, the child is not dead. She is just sleeping.

Father Well that is good to hear. But she doesn't look too good to me.

Doctor *[Taking girl's hand]* Little girl, I say to you, "Get up".

Girl *[Opening eyes, standing up and looking around.]* Where am I? Oh, dad. What's going on?

Father *[Hugging girl]* Oh Tabitha, you'r all right. I was so worried. Oh, Doctor, how can I thank you. *[Doctor is now feeling his brow as if*

*feverish. Father notices this.]* Hey, Doc are you OK. You don't look too good yourself. You look rather feverish. Can I get you something? A drink of water maybe.

Doctor Yes I am a little thirsty, but you take the girl home and give her something to eat. She needs to get her strength up. I'll be OK.

Father Well, OK, if you're sure. Thanks anyway. You've done a great job. Her mother will be over the moon. Bye, Doctor.

Tabitha Bye, Doctor and thank you. You saved my life. *[Exit Father and Tabitha arm in arm, happily. After pause, Doctor limps, gropes and coughs his way to his desk. There he slumps, arms outstretched and hits button as he falls – dead]*

**SLIDE 8: DOCTOR JOSEPHSON'S SURGERY IS FINISHED  
IT WILL RE-OPEN IN THREE DAYS**

Reader Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows.  
By his wounds we are healed.

*THE END*