

SHORT CHANGE

By Rod

Based on Luke 19 vv 1-10. This is a re-enactment of the story of Zacchaeus emphasising the CHANGE that came about in him.

CAST

Narrator To read the poem

Zac Should be small – probably a child

Jesus

Other actors to take various parts. (Can be done with minimum of two, A & B bit more could be added if available)

Props needed:

Table,

2 chairs

Stack of coins (Could use chocolate money) on table at beginning, but not stacked

More coins for A & B (starts in their pockets)

Tape measure

Financial Times

Large pot marked 'ROME'

Rotten fruit (toy fruit/soft ball/paper balls) to throw

Plate,

Knife and fork

2 teacups

Teapot

2 plates

2 tea knives

Begging bowl

Small step/stool

All actors are standing in a row with Zac in the middle except Jesus who is off stage. Table and chair are set stage left with some coins on it.

Large props table at the back.

Now this is the tale of Zacchaeus,

A tale that I am keen to report.

Now nothing much rhymes with Zacchaeus,

So it's Zac that we'll call him for short.

Zac steps forward

Other actors puzzle, looking for rhymes

Thumbs up from actors.

And 'short' best describes Zac our hero;

No Goliath nor Charles Atlas, Zac.

Instead he was vertic'ly challenged;

It was inches that Zac he did lack.

Two actors move either side of Z

Zac flexes muscles, others shake heads.

A measure Z with tape

B marks off difference between Z, and A & B

When it came to matters of finance,

T'was quite diff'rent for short statured Zac.

He never ran short of the readies,

Ev'ry evening he counted his stack.

A & B go to get Financial Times

They read it together

Z moves to sit at table

Counts a stack of coins

[Type text]

[Type text]

[Type text]

He'd acquired his coinage collection
As tax collector working for Rome.
But he'd used an old Swedish adage,
"Make sure you keep plenty Stockholm".

*A & B now Jews paying tax to Z who is
seated at his table*

He taxed fellow Jews for the Romans,
The Roman rate he duly applied,
But he added an extra percentage.
Yes, Zac had his own bit on the side.

*A & B each pay tax in turn.
Z puts some money in pot marked Rome
But some he adds to his pile*

So Zac was not in with his fellows,
No, by Jews he was really despised.
When he drove 'bout town in his limo
They threw glances - and much more besides!

*A & B leave table pointing and sneering
At Z. They shout 'Boo'
Z gets up and simulates driving
A & B throw things (soft balls?) at Z*

He kept to himself did Zacchaeus;
Zac generally dined all alone,
But changes were just round the corner
When King Jesus came into Zac's zone.

*Z returns to table and eats

Enter Jesus stage left
A & B move towards J, but up stage*

Zac had heard a lot about Jesus,
And he wanted to see for himself.
But brutes in the crowd wouldn't let him,
They said "Go home you bloodsucking elf!"

*Z sees commotion and gets up.
He moves behind A & B
A & B push him away,
A & B point to Zac's table (home)*

But our Zac was not to be thwarted,
Jesus he was determined to see.
He ran down ahead of his target,
And he shinned up a sycamore tree.

*Z goes off & climbs into pulpit
Meanwhile Jesus (followed by A&B)
moves across stage, down steps and
across front.*

Up there, little Zac could see Jesus,
And all at once he stopped in his tracks.
Was he really calling "Zacchaeus"?
And he wanted some tea back at Zac's!

*Jesus mounts steps stage right
Jesus stops and looks at Zac
Jesus points at Zac
then points to his table (home)*

Zac leaped down from the tree like a cheetah,
And raced back home to warm up the pot.
He got out his very best tea-set:
Silver knives and bone china, the lot.

*Zac rushes down from pulpit
Lays table, gets chair for Jesus, etc*

Jesus sits down

The crowd in the street, they weren't happy
With Jesus the guest of a 'sinner'.
"Taking tea and cakes with Zacchaeus,
Let's hope he won't stay on for dinner."

*A & B having followed Jesus down from
stage, have now remounted and are
stage right. Point and sneer at Zac*

But now that he'd met up with Jesus
A big change could be seen in our Zac.
"I'll give to the poor half my money;
Those I've cheated, I'll pay them all back."

*Zac leaps up from table.
A is now playing part of 'poor' holding
begging bowl centre stage.
B is one of 'cheated'. (Looks angry)*

"No, in fact I think I'll go further",
Said the now changed and generous Zac.
"I'll repay them four times their money",
And he reached for the coins in his stack.

*Zac gives half of money to poor (A)
The rest he gives to cheated (B)*

[Type text]

[Type text]

[Type text]

'Twasn't small change that Zac distributed,
Once he'd repented to God of his sin.
No, the change in Zac was much bigger -
That's what happens when God enters in.

*Once Zac has finished distributing he
stands centre stage. Jesus gets up to
stand alongside*

And what can we learn from Zacchaeus;
Short in inches but not short in sin?
He shows we can walk tall with Jesus,
But he'll need to make changes within.

*Z looks up to J, then down in shame
A & B provide step for Z to stand on*