

Next Week's News Monologue

CHARACTERS: 1 speaking

PROPS: Newspaper, rest can be done with pantomime

COSTUMES: Street clothes

SETTING: An office

At rise: Man (or woman) is praying aloud at his desk. During his prayer A walks in, places newspaper on his desk and exits)

MAN:and Lord, just one more thing. More than anything else in the world, I'd like a copy of next week's newspaper today. Just once. That's all I need. Amen

(Confused) What's this? This newspaper wasn't here a minute ago. *(Getting increasingly excited)* Wait! My prayer! God answered my prayer! I gotta check the date to make sure..... Exactly one week from today. *(Man jumps up and does a little private victory dance)*

(Enthusiastic) Great! With this information I can make a killing in the market. *(Starts looking through the paper)* I'll be set for life. I'll never have to work again. I can spend the rest of my life on a permanent vacation.

MAN: *(Interjecting pauses, and scribbling with one hand.)* Stock prices..... I never would have guessed. I'll sell that and that and buy this and...this. Let's check out the weather. You never know when there will be an earthquake or tornado..... no hurricanes.... That's a good thing. Hmmmmm... interesting. That much snow could definitely make a difference in how I good, good.

(Phone rings, answers while still looking through paper) Yeah... hi hon. *(Getting more and more exuberant as he speaks)* I'm afraid tonight's going to be a long one but tell you what, by next month I will be spending a whole lot more time with you and the kids..... I promise..... gotta go. Bye.

Sports..... You have to be kidding. They won against THEM! I have got to get a bet on that game. I bet the odds are..... *(Really excited)* speaking of odds, what's the winning lottery combination?

Obituaries... yeah, better see if any CEO's or even local politicians die. That could change the future..... *(Drops the paper)*

MAN: *(Numb)* My obituary is in this paper. *(More emotion, starting to crumble in the face of death)* I'm going to die in five days.

Lights out

NEXT WEEK'S NEWS 2

CHARACTERS: 2

PROPS: Newspaper, rest can be done with pantomime

COSTUMES: Street clothes

SETTING: An office

At rise: Man (or woman) is sitting at desk working. Realizes someone is in the room with him, looks up obviously startled

MAN: Who are you? What are you doing in my office?

ANGEL: I'm an angel of the Lord. You know how you have prayed and prayed that God give you a newspaper?

MAN: Not just any newspaper. I have prayed for a newspaper one week into the future.

ANGEL: *(Pulling newspaper out of sack or backpack or briefcase)* Here it is. Next week's news. Check the date. Exactly one week from today. *(Man does and smiles)*

MAN: *(Enthusiastic)* Great! With this information I can make a killing in the market. *(Starts looking through the paper holding it so the angel is blocked from view. Man is oblivious to the fact the angel is still there. Man keeps the newspaper positioned so angel is blocked until the paper drops)* I'll be set for life. I'll never have to work again. I can spend the rest of my life on a permanent vacation.

MAN: *(Interjecting pauses, and scribbling with one hand.)* Stock prices..... I never would have guessed. I'll sell that and that and buy this and....this. Let's check out the weather. You never know when there will be an earthquake or tornado..... no hurricanes.... That's a good thing. Hmmmmmm... interesting. That much snow could definitely make a difference in how I good, good.

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Obituaries... yeah, better see if any CEO's or even local politicians die. That could change the future..... *(Drops the paper)*

MAN: *(Numb)* My obituary is in this paper. *(More emotion, starting to crumble in the face of death)* I'm going to die in five days.

ANGEL: *(Softly)* God chose to answer your prayer NOT for the reasons you asked, but to give you one last chance.

MAN: For what. My life will be over in 5 days.

ANGEL: Will it? A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

MAN: I got so busy climbing the corporate ladder I never looked to see what the ladder was leaning against. I lost sight of what was important in eternal terms. (Pause) I have five days. What can I do in five days that would matter?

Lights out

Discussion Questions

Luke 12: 14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" 15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." What does your life consist of today? Would you change that if you knew your life would end in 5 days? In a year? Why? What would you do differently if you knew you had less than a year to live? What is keeping you from doing those things now?

Mt. 16: 26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? Based on your answers to the last two questions asked by Jesus, what has come between your soul and God?

The man in the skit above says "I got so busy climbing the corporate ladder I never looked to see what the ladder was leaning against." What do you think he meant by that? What is your ladder leaning against?

"Be careful what you pray for – you just might get it" Why do you think God answered his prayer? Did God give him what he wanted or needed or was it a cruel joke? Why?

Scriptures and discussion questions for further study Quotes for further contemplation

"If you are greedy, no answer will settle, solve or satisfy" (in reference to Luke 12: 13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.") Do you agree or disagree with that quote? If you agree, can you share a situation that illustrates this? If you disagree, share why.

Mt. 13:22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. (Take in context of the entire parable of the sower) How is wealth deceitful? What worries you?

Jn. 5:11 God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. What would you be willing to pay for an extra year of life? 10 years? What is eternal life to you? What is it worth?

1 Timothy 6:9 - People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. What is the difference between the love of money and money?

Ephesians 5: 3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Question: Does an idol have to be a statue? What are idols in modern day America? What idol tries to creep into your heart most often?

1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

What is the difference in having wealth and hoping in wealth? How do we have wealth but not hope in it? What would a person's life look like who had but did not hope in wealth?

Proverbs 11: 28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall,
but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Besides the rich fool in Luke 12, what Biblical characters trusted in their wealth instead of God? What happened to them? Contrast them with the widow in Mark 12:42. What about modern Americans? What can we trust in?

Proverbs 30: 7-9

"Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die:

8 Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.

9 Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
and say, 'Who is the LORD?'
Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God.

Do you agree with the author of Proverbs 30 that both extremes with money are to be avoided? Which would be harder for you – wealth or poverty? How much money would one have to have to be wealthy? What would put you in a middle range? What would you considered poor?