

## A DICKENS OF A NIGHT

by Paul Maley

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** A modern day Scrooge is visited by the ghost of an old colleague, and shown the consequences of his workaholic lifestyle.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** This scene can be performed without any lighting effects. In that case, Scrooge has to work a little harder to indicate when he's popping in and out of the scenes Marley is showing him. The script assumes these scenes are viewed by Scrooge and unseen by the audience, but if you have the capability for more elaborate staging (such as actually seeing Scrooge's childhood friends and present family members), that's a choice you could make. But, as in the original story, Scrooge doesn't interact with any of them. He just sees them and is affected by what he sees.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2

**TOPIC:** Christian Living

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 6:19-34, Luke 12:16-21

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Christmas

**SUGGESTED USE:** Seeker Service, Sermon Illustration

**CHARACTERS:**

SCROOGE

MARLEY

**PROPS:** Desk, chair, computer, paperwork

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary

**SOUND:** Two wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** An office

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*EBENEZER SCROOGE sits at his desk, working on paperwork. A computer is next to him, turned on. He is not the Scrooge of the Dickens story, but a modern yuppie equivalent. A voice comes over his speakers.*

**MARLEY:** Ebenezer...

**SCROOGE:** What? *(Looks around, over his shoulder)* I'm in here! *(Waits for someone to enter, but no one does. Goes back to work.)*

**MARLEY:** Ebenezer Scrooge...

**SCROOGE:** Yes? Who's there?

**MARLEY:** In life I was your partner, Jacob Marley.

**SCROOGE:** Jacob Marley? You moved back to England years ago! And I know you're too big a tightwad to call me long distance....and I'm not online, so what are you doing in my computer?

**MARLEY:** I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link—

**SCROOGE:** Link by link? You're that new virus, aren't you?

**MARLEY:** I have come to warn you, Ebenezer.

**SCROOGE:** Warn me of what? Is the market falling again?

**MARLEY:** You remember that I had to return to England because of overwork. I come to you tonight, Ebenezer, to warn you that you are similarly addicted.

**SCROOGE:** Addicted? Humbug! What is this, some sort of prank? The guys in IT did this, right? Ten o'clock p.m. and everybody still at their station gets a little eerie voice?

**MARLEY:** This is no trick, Ebenezer. Unless you seek to alter your present course, you will tread the path I have trod, and the chains of this addiction will choke you just as they choked me.

**SCROOGE:** I'm in no danger of choking on my work. I can stop anytime I want to. See? *(Puts pen down)*

**MARLEY:** Why don't you? It's 10:00 at night.

**SCROOGE:** Because, at 8:00 tomorrow morning, I have a meeting where I have to present this report. Now leave me alone!

**MARLEY:** What about tomorrow night? What excuse will you use then?