

A MOST EXPENSIVE GIFT

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: A woman who wants to give the Lord a gift is surprised when she is told the Lord wants her to reconcile with those she has wronged more than any other gift.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Although this is not a realistic sketch, the tone should be straightforward, serious, and not humorous.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Relationships

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 5:23-24

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Illustration

CHARACTERS:

MAX -- a salesman

BETH -- a Christian

PROPS: Shelves, wrapped packages

COSTUMES: Nothing specific

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A shop

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The stage is set like a small boutique. MAX is at the counter. BETH enters.

MAX: Can I help you, ma'am?

BETH: I'd like to make an offering to the Lord.

MAX: You've certainly come to the right place for that. We've been studying the Lord for years here, and we have a solid reputation for helping people find just the right gift. What did you have in mind?

BETH: Well, I'm not really sure. I'd love to give a monetary gift.

MAX: Ah yes. Invest in the kingdom, and watch the Lord multiply that investment. Very nice. Very, very nice.

BETH: The trouble is, I don't make a lot of money.

MAX: Oh, it doesn't take a lot. The Lord's kind of into miracles, you know.

BETH: I know, but I thought I could give a little more. Maybe an act of service.

MAX: Very nice. The Lord is always looking for workers to bring in the harvest. You thinking local or the foreign mission field?

BETH: I don't know. Local, maybe? I can play guitar, and I can cook.

MAX: Well, that opens a lot of possibilities. Serving meals to the poor, or the elderly. Or even leading worship. That's a double gift, you know.

BETH: And God likes those?

MAX: Oh, God likes everything given with a cheerful heart.

BETH: What does he like best?

MAX: I'm sorry?

BETH: What does the Lord like best? What's his favorite gift?

MAX: Well, the heart of a repentant sinner, of course. Nothing makes him happier

BETH: I already gave him that one.

MAX: Good! Good. All those other gifts you were considering will mean a lot more.

BETH: But what would mean the most?

MAX: I think some service or a money gift would be just fine. But if you really want to