



Written by
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“Actions Speak Louder Than Words”

Scripture: Mt. 5:14
"You are the light of the world."

Dramatic Category: Skermon

Topic: Appropriate witnessing in the workplace

Performance time: 6 minutes + 15 minute sermon

Number of Players: 7 players + the pastor

Objective:
To show how not to witness in the workplace. We are not to be presumptuous, annoying, or invasive.

Synopsis:
This "skermon" is the perfect example of how not to share your faith in the workplace. Carrie is the "persistent pastor" who insists on giving spiritual advice to people who aren't spiritual yet! Matt, on the other hand, has a sneaky habit of placing Christian tracts in the workspace of his co-workers, only to have them discover his strategic moves and feel "invaded." Finally, Paulette is the email evangelist who broadcasts spiritual tid-bits on the office email and sends them to everybody!

Cast:

Carrie:	<i>The persistent pastor who dishes out unwanted spiritual advice.</i>
Matt:	<i>The "tract bandit" who hides Christian tracts for people to find.</i>
Paulette:	<i>The email evangelist who broadcasts Christian messages, forcing everyone in the office to hear the "good news."</i>
Ken:	<i>The office manager</i>
Jamie:	<i>An employee in the office complex</i>
Doris:	<i>An employee in the office complex</i>
Chuck:	<i>An employee in the office complex</i>

Costumes: Office attire

Props:

Four papers, folded to look like little booklets (tracks)
A plastic "florist's fork" used to hold cards in arrangements

Ask each person in the cast to bring his/her own

- lap-top computer
- a plant for their desk
- a coffee mug
- some files
- a picture frame.
- a phone

This way each character is responsible for his/her own props, and the director does not have to gather them all.

Lights: GENERAL STAGE LIGHTING

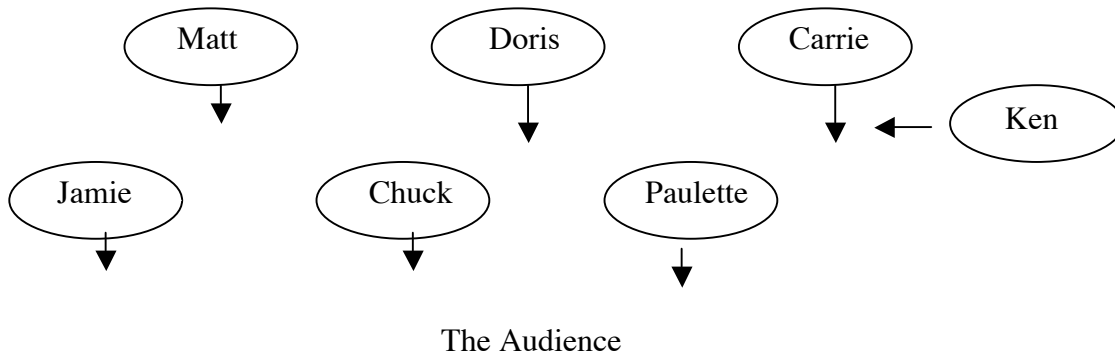
Sound:

1. Play the tune "Working on the chain-gang" or "15 tons, what'd 'ya get? Another day older and deeper in debt." Play that tune at the start of each one of the vignettes after the pastor preaches.
2. Play "Jesus Loves Me" on the piano when Paulette types the memo.

Screens: Broadcast a slide that reads: **ACME Shoes
Shipping Dept**

STAGING NOTE:

Arrange the stage with desks, like an office complex.



The Script

Scene 1: "The Persistent Pastor"

Pastor: *Set the stage for the message and give the actors a cue line with which to enter the stage, or open the message in prayer and have the players get into position during the prayer.*

Sound: Play a few bars of the "working music" (*see sound note above*).

(The employees except Ken, the office manager, are all busy working at their desks. Some are typing, some shuffling papers, others are on the phone.)

Ken: *(enters from stage right, moving toward his desk at stage left. As he moves across the stage, he greets people.)*
Good morning everybody. Let's make this a productive day. We've got the Peabody shipment to complete today, so every minute counts. Remember our motto here at ACME shoes: "We've got soul." *(The employees continue appearing very busy.)*

Carrie: *(Jamie has trouble with her phone. She begins clicking it, shaking it, and breathes a heavy sigh. Carrie perks up and notices her difficulty. She gets up and walks over to Carrie.)*

Frustrating, isn't it?

Jamie: I've been having nothing but trouble with this phone all week!

Carrie: When I have nothing but trouble, you know what I do?

Jamie: What?

Carrie: I think of John 16:33. It's a scripture that says, "In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." *(She gets more enthusiastic.)* You see, the secret in coping with life's little difficulties is keeping your eyes on the next life.

Jamie: I have to go. *(She gets up to leave.)*

Carrie: Where are you going?

Jamie: Somewhere! *(She exits)*

(Doris begins coughing. Carrie moves over to Doris' desk.)

Carrie: *(placing her hand on Doris' shoulder.)* Can I pray for you?

Doris: No, you can get me some water!
(They FREEZE in this position.)

(During this FREEZE, the pastor enters the stage. He CARRIES A CUP OF WATER. Everyone is frozen, as he makes his way over to Carrie and Doris.)

Sermon Part 1

Pastor: The old adage is true: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." *(He PLACES THE WATER at Doris' desk.)*

(He makes the point that "persistent preaching" to people who have no spiritual base in their lives is not the way to witness at work!)

(He will let the players know that he is finished with his point when he turns to exit the stage.)

Sound: *Play the "working music" as the next scene begins.*

Scene 2: "The Tract Bandit"

(Matt takes advantage of Jamie's absence and approaches her desk. He lifts up a file and tucks a tract underneath. Chuck looks up and notices Matt at Jamie's desk.)

Matt: *(explaining to Chuck)* I'm looking for the rate charts.

Chuck: *(taking a file from his desk and handing it to Matt.)* Here.

Matt: Thanks.

(Matt moves back to his desk. Doris is still coughing, so Matt take out another tract, places it on a florist's fork and pokes it into the plant on his desk. He places it on Doris' desk with the tract sticking up in a very obvious place.)

Matt: Here you go. I hope you feel better.

Doris: Oh, thank you!

(Doris opens the tract, realizes that it is a religious message, and turns her back to Matt.)

(Matt tosses a penny on the floor near Chuck's feet. Chuck leans over and notices it. Matt tosses a quarter. It also lands at Chuck's feet. Chuck leans down to investigate the mysterious appearance of coins. As he leans down, Matt springs up, grabs Chuck's coat, which is hanging over the edge of Chuck's chair, and places a tract in the inside pocket. Just as he finishes placing the tract in the pocket, Chuck straightens up from his investigation of the floor. Chuck stands and takes his coat back from Matt. The two men FREEZE in this position, each one holding on to Chuck's coat.)

Sermon Part 2

Pastor:

(He approaches Matt and Chuck and makes the point that "tract bandits" are seldom effective when they invade the personal space of others!)

(He will let the players know that he is finished with his point when he turns to exit the stage. When the pastor exits, MATT returns to his desk.)

Sound: *Play the "working music" as the next scene begins.*

Scene 3: "The Email Evangelist."

(After the scene resumes as a workplace, Paulette becomes more animated. She begins humming to herself, "Jesus Loves Me." The humming gets Chuck's attention. He looks over to her.)

Paulette: *(leaning over to Chuck and speaking in a hoarse whisper.)*
Jesus loves you, 'ya know.

Chuck: *(obviously not interested and putting up his hand as a sign for Paulette to back off.)*

Paulette: *(in a stage whisper to herself as she looks around the at her co-workers.)* Jesus loves all of you people! You should read your Bibles like you read your emails!

(She perks up because she gets an idea.)

That's it! An email!

(Paulette enthusiastically begins to write an email. She speaks a few words of it audibly, then types for a moment, then speaks again.)

Dear *(she thinks for a moment)* world,
Jesus loves you more than you could ever know.....
(She types a while) All He wants is for you to do is.....
Why don't you take this moment to begin your eternal
relationship.....*(She types a moment more.)*
Love, Paulette...no...Love, Jesus.

(She leans back in satisfaction.) There! Now for a musical background. *(She hits a few keys)* There we go.

Sound: Play a few notes of "Jesus Loves Me."

Paulette: *(To herself)* To "everyone"
Send *(She dramatically hits the "send" key.)*

(Paulette FREEZES, as do the other players, as the pastor mounts the stage.)

Sermon Part 3

Pastor:

(He approaches Paulette and makes the point that "email evangelists" are just plain annoying!)

(He will let the players know that he is finished with his point when he turns to exit the stage. When the pastor exits this final time, so do all the players.)

Sound: *Play the "working music" as the players exit and the pastor transitions into the rest of his sermon.*