

# FISH-EYES

By Ted Swartz and Lee Eshleman

**Dressing, The Receiving Line, The Reception**

## Scene: DRESSING

Scripture text: John 2

Setting: Inside a bedroom.

Props: costuming: socks, shoes, jacket, etc.

Length: 1 minute

*(PETER and ANDREW are dressing for a wedding.)*

**ANDREW:** Is this jacket okay?

**PETER:** The jacket's fine. Have you seen my other sock?

**ANDREW:** You didn't even look at the jacket.

**PETER:** The jacket's fine. I love the jacket. I couldn't be happier about the jacket. Have you seen my other sock?

**ANDREW:** Look out in the hall.

*(PETER checks in the hall.)*

**PETER:** There's no sock out there.

**ANDREW:** Well I don't know where else to... *(Discovers a sock in his pocket, hands it to PETER, who begins to put it on.)* I guess I thought it was a handkerchief. *(PETER reacts in mid action.)* I didn't use it. *(Pause)* I don't think. *(Again PETER does a take.)* I'm sure it's dry by now anyway. Come on, hurry up. If there's one thing I hate, it's being late for a wedding.

**PETER:** You know what I hate? Weddings. Andrew, tell me again: Why are we going to a wedding?

**ANDREW:** Because he asked us to.

**PETER:** So from now on you're going to do everything he asks you to?

**ANDREW:** Yeah, I think. Aren't you?

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**PETER:** I don't know.

**ANDREW:** Well, it worked out pretty well last time.

**PETER:** I guess.

**ANDREW:** You guess?

**PETER:** A guess ... a wedding ... so what are we giving them?

**ANDREW:** A fish.

**PETER:** A what?!

**ANDREW:** A fish.

**PETER:** We're giving them a fish.

**ANDREW:** Yeah. We had a lot of them. What?

**PETER:** We're giving them a fish.

**ANDREW:** I wrapped it nicely. Come on!

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**Scene: THE RECEIVING LINE**

Scripture text: John 2

Setting: At the receiving line of a wedding.

Props: 2 goblets

Length: 6 minutes

**ANDREW:** *(Moving down the receiving line, shaking hands)* Hello. How are you? Hi. I'm Andrew and this is my big brother Peter. Hello. And you must be the mother of the bride. You can just tell. Oh, it was a beautiful wedding. All the symbolism and—Pete, wasn't it a beautiful wedding?

**PETER:** *(To bride's mother)* Well ... it was a wedding. They went ahead and did it. I'm sorry? Oh, no ma'am, we're not with the bride or groom. We're with Jesus.

**ANDREW:** Yes. We didn't receive invitations as such. We were "called".

**PETER:** Yes, we're with Jesus. It's this new group we're in.

**ANDREW:** It's a gathering. A kind of...

**PETER:** It's a new club. No, it isn't a club. Help me out, I'm dying here...

**ANDREW:** Well, we're with Jesus and... *(Pause)* We're with Jesus.

**PETER:** I'm sorry? Well, there's the two of us here, James and John. You might know Zebedee's boys... *(Counting)* Eleven, there's 11 of us.

**ANDREW:** There's 12.

**PETER:** What?

**ANDREW:** There's 12.

**PETER:** Really?

**ANDREW:** Sure, there's the four of us here, Bart's group over by the chip dip, and those four that just joined up, I think one of them's a tax collector.

**PETER:** Really?

**ANDREW:** Yea.

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TOGETHER: Ohhhh

PETER: There's 12. *(Hearing another question)* What are we going to be doing?  
*(Pause, then to ANDREW)* What are we going to be doing?

ANDREW: *(Pause, then to bride's mother)* We're with Jesus. Have you ever met him? He's ... yeah he's *(Discovering him and waving)* over there by those big water jars. He's with his mother. You really should—*(PETER is tugging his sleeve.)* We have to keep moving. It was nice to have met you. *(They move down the line. ANDREW stops.)* What are they up to?

PETER: Who?

ANDREW: Jesus and his mother.

PETER: I don't know; she's been at him for a while. *(They shrug.)*

ANDREW: Ah and here's the couple of the hour. *(Shaking groom's hand)*  
Congratulations buddy! May I kiss the bride? Ah. *(Shakes her hand)*

PETER: Those 11 olive branches around the altar were a nice touch.

ANDREW: Pete, there were six per side, so...

PETER: Hmm?

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ANDREW: Never mind. Oh, you liked our gift? I'm glad. Well, I realize that some may find such a gift ... unusual. But, well, that's an unusual fish. Well, how we got the fish was unusual, the fish itself may not be so unusual except that we gave you the best one—I don't mean to say it isn't special—but see, we're fisherman, that's what we do, we were in this not spot all night and nothin', just nothin', and then Jesus comes along the next morning and—have you ever met him? He's standing over there with his mother. If you haven't met him, you really should get over there and... *(PETER pokes him in the side.)* So anyhow, to make a story exactly the same length, Jesus tells us to throw the nets out there again, so we did and it was just as smooth as before ... then fooom!, boy there was fish everywhere ... fins and gills and gelatinous eyes... They're practically leaping into the boat and I went over trying to haul them in ... I hope you enjoy your fish. Actually it hearkens back to an old saying of mother's: there's always room for mackerel. *(Big laugh. Discovers PETER staring at him.)* Mom was a bit off her nut. *(beat)*

PETER: We gotta go.

### **Scene: THE RECEPTION**

Scripture: John 2  
Props: 2 goblets  
Time: 3 minutes

*(PETER and ANDREW stand together at the reception. They now have goblets in hand.)*

ANDREW: So Peter, you can back me up here. Just telling Philip about Mom. She always knew what to say. Like after that bad break-up she looks me right in the eye and says: "Oh, Andrew. You know she's not the only one in the fish."

PETER: I gotta get more wine. Steward!

*(PETER takes a few steps away from ANDREW and, as ANDREW speaks, raises his glass as if to say "more", then drops it back again in disappointment.)*

ANDREW: "She's not the only fish IN THE SEA." That's it. Cause if she was IN the fish ... whew! I mean, that would give a whole new meaning to the word "chum," wouldn't it?

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PETER: Oh, that's great. They're out of wine. You guys out of wine? Yeah?  
Thomas, you know these people. You think they'll bring some more?  
You doubt it. ... That's it, we're going.

ANDREW: What? We just got here.

PETER: We're going.

ANDREW: No, I don't want to go.

PETER: These are not my kind of people. I feel stupid being here. And they're  
out of wine.

ANDREW: Don't you feel like there's a reason we're here? Like we're supposed to  
be here?

PETER: We are not supposed to be here.

ANDREW: Then why are you here?

PETER: I guess it's the fish.

ANDREW: It's not the fish. It's him.

PETER: Oh, please.

ANDREW: I just knew from the moment I saw him standing on the dock that  
there was something about him. There was a feeling, a glow...

PETER: A glow? I'm at a wedding because he has a glow?

ANDREW: There's something about him.

PETER: Fine. There's something about him. Now what?

ANDREW: He's gonna make us fishers of men.

PETER: And what does that mean?

ANDREW: I have no idea.

PETER: *(Accepting more wine)* Yes I would, thank you. Well neither do I. This  
whole thing feels like a stupid impulse to me.

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ANDREW: Pete, have you tasted this wine? It's really good. It's got a robust bouquet, a long oaky finish.

PETER: Wow, this is a lot better than the last stuff they had.

ANDREW: Exactly. ...That stuff they were serving right before when they...

BOTH: *(Together)* Ran out.

*(They look back where Jesus was, then back at each other. ANDREW raises the glass and PETER toasts it. They look back at Jesus.)*

END

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