

FISH-EYES

By Ted Swartz and Lee Eshleman

SCENE: THE CALL

Scripture text: Luke 5

Setting: A fishing dock. Morning.

Props: 2 wooden chairs with backs

Length: 5 minutes

(PETER and ANDREW enter. PETER is angry.)

PETER: Do you believe that guy?

ANDREW: Leave it go, Peter.

PETER: I mean he doesn't have to be that rude.

ANDREW: Peter...

PETER: How many times have we eaten there?

ANDREW: I don't know.

PETER: I'll tell you ... A lot. We've eaten there a lot. Well, never again.

ANDREW: Peter, we didn't have any money.

PETER: I know we didn't have any money! Sometimes I really hate fishing, you know that?

(PETER begins to pull nets for cleaning and repair.)

ANDREW: No, you don't.

PETER: Yes I do!

(ANDREW throws his hands up.)

ANDREW: So we didn't catch anything last night. I mean it's not like it's our fault. We were in a not spot.

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PETER: A what?

ANDREW: A not spot. A spot where the fish are not ... is a not spot. As in "this is a not spot, we may as well go back, we'll never catch anything here." *(He stretches the net out and regards it.)* Holy ... look at this net! What makes a hole that size?

PETER: Not fish, that's for sure.

ANDREW: Tell me about it.

PETER: I mean, we must have cast, what, 60 times last night?

ANDREW: Sixty-six. I was counting. The first time we cast I thought, "Okay, that's one." Then the next time I thought, "Two." Then three, then four, but on the fifth one I had to make a little angular mark because it's like a subset or a little bundle of sticks—

(He discovers PETER staring at him.)

PETER: Whatever. The point is, Andrew, we catch fish, we sell them. We don't catch fish, we don't sell them. Being a fisherman and all, I find that's important.

ANDREW: Okay, fine.

PETER: Would you look at all the holes in this net?

ANDREW: Look at all the muck in this net.

PETER: You take the muck, I'll take the holes.

ANDREW: Right. *(They work for a moment. Andrew starts to chuckle.)* This reminds me of a joke. Chuck told me this one. There's this guy who wants to sell a donkey so he goes to market on a Saturday—

PETER: What kind of donkey?

ANDREW: I don't know. Anyhow, leaning against a post there's a lawyer, a tax collector, and a rabbi.

PETER: How old was the donkey?

ANDREW: I don't know.

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PETER: Why not?

ANDREW: It doesn't matter.

PETER: Of course it does. That's how you tell the value of the donkey. How old was the donkey?

ANDREW: I don't think the humor hinges on the value of the donkey.

PETER: Sure it does!

ANDREW: How do you know? You haven't even heard it yet!

PETER: Chuck told you this joke?

ANDREW: Yeah...

PETER: He obviously doesn't know how to tell a joke.

ANDREW: Well now I've lost my momentum.

PETER: You never had any!

ANDREW: Why do I bother?

PETER: *(Seeing a figure approaching)* Andy, who's this comin'?

ANDREW: I dunno. I've never seen him before.

PETER: Tell you what. You like to talk so much, you talk to him.

ANDREW: Good morning. What? No, as a matter of fact we didn't have a very good night. But thanks for asking. It's nice to be reminded of that pleasant memory. *(Laughing)* You're joking, right? That's what we did all night. In fact we cast 66 times and didn't catch anything. What makes you think we should go back out and—wait a minute! Is this some sort of promotion? Are you selling something? We have everything we need here. *(Pauses to listen, then to PETER)* He says he hasn't fished that much himself.

PETER: So what makes you think we should go back out?

ANDREW: Do you have some sort of hot tip on an immigration influx of

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mackerel?

PETER: Listen, I'm tired. You wanna catch some fish, you go out and put down a net.

ANDREW: You're really serious about this, aren't you? How's that? Wait a minute. Do I know you? Why exactly do you think ... why should I? ... Peter.

PETER: I'm going home.

ANDREW: Peter, wait a minute. *(Motions him over; quietly)* I think we should go back out.

PETER: You would. Tell you what. You and your new friend here wanna go, go right ahead. I'm tired; I'm going home.

ANDREW: I think we should go back out and cast again.

PETER: Hey, Andy! I said I'm not interested. *(Turns back to Jesus)* Look, you said you didn't fish. So don't be telling us how to fish. If there were fish out there, we would've gotten them. If there were 10 fish out there, if there were five ... if there was one stinking lousy fish out there I think we...

(He is suddenly silent, transfixed by Jesus.)

ANDREW: I think we should go back out and cast again.

PETER: Okay. *(Begins to turn)* Andrew, who was that?

(ANDREW laughs; then they both turn to watch the departing figure in a mix of puzzlement and wonder.)

END

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