

AN ACCOUNTING: JESUS HEALS A MUTE MAN

Written by Ted Swartz

Characters: Peter

Scripture Text: Mark 7:31-37

Props: table, chair, sketchbook, scraps of paper with notes on them

Length: 6 minutes

Setting: Indoors

(PETER is at the desk, having a great deal of difficulty with what he is working on.)

PETER: Andrew!! Nuts! ... This makes no sense ... I hate this, hate this, hate this ... Andrew!

ANDREW: Peter ... What are you bellowing about?

(He's looking for something.)

PETER: You gotta help me with this.

ANDREW: With what?

PETER: The month's accounting.

ANDREW: Uh uh. Gotta go.

PETER: Andrew.

ANDREW: It's your turn. Everybody has to take a turn.

PETER: You know I'm never gonna get this right.

ANDREW: Boy, look at the time.

PETER: Didn't I just do this?

ANDREW: How many months in a year?

PETER: Twelve.

ANDREW: How many of us are there?

PETER: Twelve.

ANDREW: So?

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(Pause.)

PETER: I just did this, didn't I?

ANDREW: A year ago.

PETER: Judas isn't going to be happy with me.

ANDREW: Judas is never happy with you.

PETER: Come here, look at this. I can't even read this. Frgffcuwcfwucfw *(This needs to be unintelligible. Trying to read unreadable writing—create your own.)*

ANDREW: Four loaves of bread and a small wheel of cheese. *(PETER just looks at him.)* What?

PETER: *(Picks up another scrap of paper.)* Jytrdfwdtfruytfgjyg.

ANDREW: A donation of four chickens and a goat.

PETER: You're kidding.

ANDREW: Nope.

PETER: Hthtdtwfluyuwlyw *(A long one.)*

ANDREW: Food.

PETER: Food.

ANDREW: Bart's not very specific—it goes in the expense pile.

PETER: This is ridiculous, I can't do this. Can't do it. I see numbers on paper, my mind goes numb.

ANDREW: And that's different how?

PETER: *(Face contorted with hands.)* Come on.

ANDREW: Okay, I'm gonna explain this simply, with the least amount of accounting jargon.

(PETER puts his hand up.)

ANDREW: Yea?

PETER: Now when you say jargon...

ANDREW: Peter, look. You take all the items in the expense pile, add them up, all the items in the income pile, okay that's not a very big pile, add them up, subtract the difference. That's your balance. Okay?

PETER: Now when you say pile.

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ANDREW: Do it!

(Continues to search the room.)

PETER: *(Grumbling...)* Can't even read the stupid things. What are you looking for?

ANDREW: My sketchbook. I gotta write this stuff down.

(Brandishes a handful of paper scraps.)

PETER: What is it?

ANDREW: Notes.

PETER: From?

ANDREW: Stuff he said. *(Still looking.)* Stuff he said.

PETER: Who?

ANDREW: The mute guy.

PETER: *(A look.)* You have stuff written down that a mute guy said.

ANDREW: Ex-mute.

PETER: I assumed. When?

ANDREW: A group brought this deaf and mute man to Jesus...

(Still looking... lost in his searching.)

PETER ...brought a deaf mute guy to Jesus.

ANDREW: Right. They said just touch him, just touch him. The blind guy.

PETER: Thought you said he was deaf.

ANDREW: That's the guy.

PETER: They wanted Jesus to touch him.

ANDREW: Right.

PETER: Doesn't explain the need for the sketchbook.

ANDREW: I'm getting to that.

PETER: So you are.

ANDREW: So he...

PETER: He who?

ANDREW: He who?

PETER: The blind guy, the mute guy, the ex-mute guy or Jesus?

ANDREW: Jesus.

PETER: Jesus.

ANDREW: He spits and...

PETER: What a minute ... on purpose. He spits on purpose.

ANDREW: Yes, on purpose.

PETER: Because when he gets excited...

ANDREW: No, he very purposefully spits and puts some...

PETER: *(Puts hand up.)* Now when you say some...

ANDREW: The spit.

PETER: Ahhg.

ANDREW: Puts some on the man's tongue.

PETER: Ahhgghg...

ANDREW: Then he stuck his fingers in the man's ears.

PETER: Didn't spit in the man's ears?

ANDREW: No.

PETER: Well, that's something.

ANDREW: Then says—"Open up" ... Open up.

PETER: And?

ANDREW: The man can hear ... he can hear ... man, I never get tired of that.

PETER: Neither do I ... the notes?

(ANDREW shows the notes; PETER reads.)

PETER: Jhgfhjewewtyghgbgew.

(Looks at ANDREW like he needs interpretation.)

****PURCHASE REQUIRED FOR PERFORMANCE AND DUPLICATION****

ANDREW: Jhgfhjewewtyghbgew. (*Repeats exactly as PETER has pronounced it.*)
That's what he said.

PETER: Jhgfhjewewtyghbgew? (*Repeats exactly.*)

ANDREW: His first sentence ever.

PETER: Okay.

ANDREW: (*Shows him some more.*) Ktfrytwfkutyut. Ktyufewtyuvutyewtyyt.
Kjyfweutyvweukyvwuyey.

PETER: And this is what you needed to write down.

ANDREW: Yea ... Then Jesus puts his hands on the man's lips and the man said ... I
hear the birds ... and your breathing ... thank you ... wow.

PETER: Wow ... what did Jesus say?

ANDREW: Shhhhh.

PETER: (*Quietly.*) What did Jesus say?

ANDREW: Don't tell anyone.

PETER: (*Quietly.*) I won't.

ANDREW: No, that's what he said, "Don't tell anyone."

PETER: (*Full voice.*) He said, "Don't tell anyone?" Again? He's the one who healed
him; the guy hasn't talked his whole life and he says don't tell anyone?

ANDREW: Yea.

PETER: Why does he do that?

ANDREW: Beats me.

PETER: Any chance the guy will listen to him?

ANDREW: Would you?

PETER: But this is Jesus who told him, the guy with the power...

ANDREW: Would you?

PETER: This isn't about me, it's pretty clear that Jesus...

ANDREW: Would you?

PETER: Not a chance.

END

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SCRIPT
PREVIEW

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