

## PAUL AND TIMOTHY

By Ted Swartz

**Characters:** Paul, Timothy

**Scripture text:** Ephesians 4: 1-16

**Props:** suitcase, clothes, clothes basket

**Setting:** Paul is trying to pack for a trip

**Length:** 5 minutes

PAUL: Timothy!! ... Timothy!! My shirt, the one with the pockets that close, I can't find it ... Timothy! (*Under his breath.*) A big help he turned out to be this morning ... The shirt! The one with... (*Winds down.*) Never mind I'll just go without... (*Turns to find TIMOTHY standing right behind him; it startles him.*) Ah!

TIMOTHY: You bellowed?

PAUL: I didn't bellow ... I was just asking whether or not you knew whether...

TIMOTHY: You bellowed.

PAUL: Ok, I bellowed.

TIMOTHY: Which you said you wouldn't do any more.

PAUL: When?

TIMOTHY: Yesterday, at dinner after you "bellowed" about not finding the manuscript from Corinth.

PAUL: That was important.

TIMOTHY: It's always important.

PAUL: Exactly!

TIMOTHY: Doesn't mean bellowing is necessary.

PAUL: Yes, it ... look, I bellow, I'm sorry. It's part of my charm.

TIMOTHY: Charm?

PAUL: Yes, my charm...

TIMOTHY: I don't recall any charm ... I'm pretty sure I would have noticed if there was any...

PAUL: ...I must have misplaced it—it's probably with my shirt—the one with the pockets... (*TIMOTHY holds up the shirt.*) ... that button ... Right. Thank you. (*Packs it away.*)

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TIMOTHY: No sign of the charm though.

PAUL: Well, you keep looking, it's out there somewhere. Where did you learn to sneak up on people like that? *(Continues to pack.)*

TIMOTHY: I wasn't sneaking—you were just loud.

PAUL: Right.

TIMOTHY: So you're leaving?

PAUL: Yes ... and?

TIMOTHY: Thought the doctor said it wasn't a good idea.

PAUL: Doctors have been wrong before.

TIMOTHY: But not you.

PAUL: Hmm.

TIMOTHY: So the foot's fine?

PAUL: Yes, the foot's fine.

TIMOTHY: OK.

PAUL: You sound dubious.

TIMOTHY: Me? Dubious? In regard to your ability to make judgements about your health ... phhwww.

PAUL: Your sarcasm is duly noted...

TIMOTHY: You're limping.

PAUL: I am merely favoring that side.

TIMOTHY: It's called a limp.

PAUL: Favoring.

TIMOTHY: OK.

*(Pause.)*

PAUL: It's chronic, I had it for years.

TIMOTHY: It's gout.

PAUL: It's a sore foot.

TIMOTHY: Called gout.

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PAUL: That's an ugly word.

TIMOTHY: So's amputation.

PAUL: Are you trying to scare me?

TIMOTHY: Yes.

PAUL: I don't scare easily.

TIMOTHY: Yes, we all know. *(Pause.)* I could go by myself.

PAUL: *(Brings him up short.)* You?

TIMOTHY: Yes.

PAUL: Now I'm dubious.

TIMOTHY: Deliver aid and encouragement to the churches ... the collections from Ephesus.

PAUL: It's my responsibility, they're expecting me. *(Moves to get another article of clothing.)*

TIMOTHY: Limping.

PAUL: No.

TIMOTHY: You're an absolute pain in the...

PAUL: Watch it.

TIMOTHY: It might be a nice change for them ... I'm actually good with people.

PAUL: *(A pause and look.)* Are you insinuating that I'm not good with people?

TIMOTHY: Limping.

PAUL: Stop trying to change the subject!

TIMOTHY: You're a big personality.

PAUL: Of course I'm a big personality... it's a big job!

TIMOTHY: Not everyone feels like they can voice their opinion.

*(Pause.)*

PAUL: Like who?

TIMOTHY: That doesn't matter.

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PAUL: Of course it matters—if they don't have the ... guts to tell me I'm not letting them have a say, then their opinions don't matter.

TIMOTHY: I can talk to them.

PAUL: You will get your chance.

TIMOTHY: How long will that be?

PAUL: I'll let you know.

TIMOTHY: Will that be before or after that leg kills you.

PAUL: It won't be the leg that kills me.

TIMOTHY: *(Pause.)* I know ... You haven't given me a reason yet.

PAUL: You're impulsive, you're rash—you...

TIMOTHY: —might make a mistake or two.

PAUL: —which we can't afford.

TIMOTHY: —which means I won't learn!

PAUL: *(Their voices are rising.)* It's too important!

TIMOTHY: You can't do everything!

PAUL: *(Pause.)* I'm not done yet.

TIMOTHY: Who said you were done? *(Exasperated.)* Ahhh... *(Change of tactic.)* What are you going to tell these people?

PAUL: Why?

TIMOTHY: Paul, look at me.

PAUL: Yes?

TIMOTHY: You taught me well. What would I tell them?... "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it—you shouldn't all look and speak and act the same. Each of us is given his own gift.

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... He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed...

PAUL: ... out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church...

... until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ." ... Oh, for goodness sake, go.

*(TIMOTHY leaves, then returns—he has forgotten the suitcase/bag.)*

TIMOTHY: Least I'm not limping?

*(PAUL gives a final chuckle.)*

THE END

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