

Jesus Parts “Sheep” from “Goats” that Lack Practical Love  
About 7 minutes, from Matt. 25: 31-46, adapted from *The Guest* by Leon Tolstoy.

Participants

You do not need to memorize your lines.

However, you should look at your lines ahead of time to know your actions.

Cobbler

Skeptic

Shoeless

Widow

Jobless

Prompter Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes All who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

- Cobbler                    (*Stand and pretend to wipe a window, facing the people.*)  
What smudges!  
I haven't cleaned this window since my wife died, years ago.
- Skeptic                    (*Approach Cobbler from the side*)  
Cobbler, you're finally tidying up your messy shoe shop!  
You must be expecting a visit from Russia's grand Tsar.
- Cobbler                    Someone even more important than the Tsar!  
The Lord is coming to visit me before sundown.  
I had a dream, and it was real!
- Skeptic                    (*Laugh*)  
Oh my! So you're a saint now! Let me kiss your ring!  
I'd better go. Your eminent guest would not appreciate  
having a faithless reprobate like me hanging around!  
(*Step away, laughing*)
- Shoeless                    (*Approach Cobbler from one side*)  
Cobbler, I need work.  
Look. I'm barefoot; my shoes wore out, and it's cold.
- Prompter & Echoes    Below freezing!
- Cobbler                    I do too little business to hire help. Don't bother me.
- Shoeless                    (*Turn*)  
Ouch!  
(*Hop, holding one foot*) I stepped on a nail!
- Cobbler                    Oh, here! Take these shoes.  
(*Pretend to hand him shoes*)  
I probably never will sell them anyway.
- Shoeless                    (*Pretend to slip shoes on, and limp toward the door.*)  
Ouch!
- Prompter & Echoes    They hurt!
- Cobbler                    You moron! You put them on the wrong feet! Now go.

Shoeless                    *(Pretend to change shoes.)*  
Ahh! That's better.  
*(Step away)*

Jobless                    *(Approach Cobbler from one side)*  
Cobbler, Cossacks commandeered my carthorse;  
now I have no work. I'm hungry! Can you spare me a bite?

Prompter & Echoes    He's hungry!

Cobbler                    Oh, take my lunch; it's on that shelf by the door.  
I'm too nervous to eat it anyway.

Jobless                    May the saints bless you, citizen.  
*(Pretend to pick up a bag and step away.)*

Widow                    *(Approach Cobbler from one side)*  
Sir, my clothes are worn, and I need work.  
I'm a widow. Can I clean up your shop?

Cobbler                    No, but you can have my departed wife's coat.  
It's hanging there by the door.  
Take it on your way out.

Widow                    Oh, thank you, kind sir!  
*(Step away)*

Prompter & Echoes    Gracious!

Skeptic                    *(Approach)*  
The sun has set, Cobbler.  
Did you enjoy your visit with your grand guest?  
Did the Lord anoint you as Archbishop?  
*(Laugh derisively.)*  
Maybe he brought you a message from your departed wife!

Cobbler                    Out! Out!  
*(Shake a fist at skeptic, cover your face and groan.)*

Skeptic                    I'm sorry! I'm really sorry! That was thoughtless of me.  
Oh, let me cheer you up! Did you do good business today?

Cobbler                    Business was terrible. I gave everything away!  
A barefoot beggar came, and I gave him shoes to get rid of him.  
A guy came begging for work, and I gave him my lunch.  
A widow came and I gave her my departed wife's coat.  
Yeah, I had a great day all right!

Skeptic                    What did you say?  
*(Shake Cobbler's shoulder and shout)*  
Cobbler! What did you say?  
He came! He came, Cobbler! Listen to me!

Prompter & Echoes    He came!

Cobbler                    Oh, yeah!  
With thousands of angels and trumpets, in clouds of glory!

Skeptic Listen!  
My mom told me long ago what Jesus our judge would say  
to the faithful gathered on his right hand in Glory:  
**“Enter, blessed ones. For I was hungry, and you fed me.  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink;  
I was naked, and you clothed me.”**  
*(Lay a hand on Cobbler’s shoulder.)*  
**“Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these,  
you did it to me.”**

Cobbler Jesus said that? He actually said that?  
Then... Then... Oh, dear God!  
*(Fall to your knees.)*

Skeptic *(Shout)*  
Then he tells those on his left,  
**“Depart from me, accursed ones into eternal punishment,  
for I was hungry, and you gave me nothing,  
thirsty, and you gave me no drink, naked,  
and you did not clothe me.”**

Prompter & Echoes Shame!

Skeptic Oh, Lord, you have come!  
You have come to us both.  
*(Embrace Cobbler.)*

Prompter & Echoes Lord, we will serve you this way!