

# First Day

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



## Theme and Purpose

The expert in the law, wanting "to justify himself... asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'" Jesus responded with the parable of the Good Samaritan, ending with the question: "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The implication of the question is that the point isn't who my neighbor is, but rather will I be a neighbor to those around me - even people not like me?

Our sketch shows a sales trainee, who, in his or her first day, falls into the "hands" of customers. Two of those customers beat up the trainee nearly as badly as the man who "was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho." The question is: will we be neighbors to sales trainees and other people we interact with day-to-day.

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<b>Cast list</b>	Trainee Cashier Customer 1 - Passive aggressive in impatience Customer 2 - Openly aggressive Customer 3 - Making a choice to be gracious
<b>Approximate Running Time</b>	5 minutes
<b>Scene Description</b>	Where does the sketch take place? How should the set be decorated?
<b>Prop List</b>	Cash register, Scanner (either hand scanner or flat bed), Shopping items.
<b>Other Production Notes</b>	None
<b>Related Scriptures</b>	Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 25:31-46; Galatians 5:22; Matthew 5:45
<b>Song Suggestions</b>	If We are the Body, We Are One

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(Sales Counter with Trainee behind it and Customers 1, 2, and 3 in line in that order.)

(Trainee is scanning items to soundFx of scanner beeps. Can't get final item to scan. Tries 5 or 6 times while customers 1 and 2 react with irritation. Trainee finally tries to type in the code to the cash register, code fails, squints at item and tries to type again.)

TRAINEE

Sorry. This is my first day.

Customer 1

Oh. Well, I only have a doctor's appointment in ten minutes... across town... to check my blood pressure.

TRAINEE

(gets scan to work)

Okay. Is that everything?

CUSTOMER 1

I don't see anything else. Do you?

TRAINEE

(clueless)

No. So that's \$18.72.

(Customer 1 hands Trainee a bill.)

TRAINEE

Out of twenty...

(Trainee presses a key on cash register - nothing happens. Trainee presses several more keys, tries to manually pull open drawer, shakes cash register.)

CUSTOMER 1

(fake sweetly)

Are we having a problem?

TRAINEE

No. No, no. I... I...

(reaches into his/her own pocket)

I have a dollar and a quarter. Would that be close enough?

CUSTOMER 1

You bet it is. God bless you.

(under breath)

You'll need it.

(turns toward Customer 2 and Customer 3 and says in a stage whisper)

Good luck.

(Customer 1 exits, shaking his or her head. Customer 2 steps up with three items.)

TRAINEE

Sorry. This is my first day.

(Customer 2 reacts, looking up to heaven and shaking head. Trainee tries to scan first item - it takes about 3 times)

And this scanner is kinda hard to get used to.

(scanning second item - it takes 2 times)

I think it might not be working right.

CUSTOMER 2

Well, something's not working right. That's for sure.

TRAINEE

(scanning third item -works on the first try)

I think I'm getting the hang of it. You just hold it like this

(scans third item again - it works again)

Look!

(scans third item twice more)

Hey, now that's going.

CUSTOMER 2

Wait!

TRAINEE

(scanning same item again and again)

It's so easy. I love it.

CUSTOMER 2

(losing it)

I only bought one of those!

TRAINEE

What?

CUSTOMER 2

You've scanned it like ten times.

TRAINEE

Oh. Well, not to worry. I can fix it  
(turns to cash register)

Let's see. I need to change the quantity. I can fix this. I  
can fix this. I think I just press this...

(pressing button)

Oh. Well, that cleared it all out. We can start over, I  
guess.

(moves all three items back to other side of  
scanner)

CUSTOMER 2

How long is this going to take do you think?

TRAINEE

(good naturedly)

Hard to say. It's my first day.

CUSTOMER 2

So I've heard.

(Trainee scans first two items with no  
problems. Then has problem with third item,  
trying it two or three times.)

CUSTOMER 2

(grabbing third item out of trainee's hands  
and scanning it himself)

Give me that.

TRAINEE

Alrighty then. That will be \$7.57.

(Customer 2 hands Trainee a bill.)

TRAINEE

Out of ten. Okay. That would be... uh.. two forty-three in  
change.

(opens change drawer and stares into it)

Right. Two forty-three. Two forty-three...

CUSTOMER 2

Two dollar bills. Four dimes and three pennies. Or a quarter, a dime, a nickel, and three pennies. Or a quarter, three nickels, and three pennies. Or if you don't have any bills...

TRAINEE

(pause a beat, staring at Customer 2)

I'll have to break open some new pennies.

(Trainee breaks penny roll. Pennies go flying everywhere.)

CUSTOMER 2

(reaching in the cash register)

Just give me the bills and keep the change.

(Customer 2 stomps off.)

TRAINEE

Wait! You can't...

(Customer 3 steps up with one item and helps Trainee gather the pennies.)

TRAINEE

(glumly)

Sorry. I suppose you're busy, too.

CUSTOMER 3

Well... take your time. It's your first day and all.

TRAINEE

How'd you know? Is it that obvious?

CUSTOMER 3

Aw, no... yes. But we'll both get through this. This is kinda entertaining.

TRAINEE

Do you mind if I don't use the scanner? I can't understand why I'm having so much trouble. I've used other scanners before. We have a police band scanner at home.

CUSTOMER 3

That's not really the...

TRAINEE

(trainee turns back to register with  
Customer 3's item in hand and presses  
buttons)

Okay. This is 10.95... plus sales tax... no that's not  
right. Okay... clear... 10.95 plus tax. So that's 19.95....

CUSTOMER 3

(tactfully)

That seems like a lot of tax...

TRAINEE

Yeah, it does, doesn't it? Okay, clear. 10.95... sales tax.  
11.72.

(exultant)

Hey! I think that's right! 11.72, please.

CUSTOMER 3

(handing exact change)

Eleven and here's seventy-two. Exact change.

(Customer 3 takes merchandise and exits.)

TRAINEE

(calling after Customer 3)

Have a nice day.

(to self)

Man, I need a break.

(Trainee exits.)

*Fade to black*

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