

Life in Retail

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



Theme and Purpose

Jesus said we were to be the salt of the earth, a light on a hill that dispels the darkness of the world. That's a tall order. What have you done today to make the world a better or more interesting place – to add life to people's lives? The shoppers in this sketch treat the sales clerk as invisible or an object but never a person. Would a kind word, a smile, some consideration have cost them anything? How would it have changed this sales clerk's day? I wonder how many of these shoppers are Christians?

Cast list	Clerk – man or woman, preferably a young woman. Should be dressed well for a high-class store. Random Customers (2 or 3) - either men or women Shopper Friends 1 & 2 -- either men or women Phone Shopper – either man or woman Independent Shopper – either man or woman Jumpy Shopper - either man or woman Angry Shopper - either man or woman Store Announcer – voice over only, either man or woman
Approximate Running Time	3 minutes
Scene Description	A busy store.
Prop List	If doing the sketch during holiday season, dress shoppers in coats, mufflers, etc.
Other Production Notes	The sales counter can be built by taking a thrift store dresser, knocking out the back, and replacing it with Plexiglas. Replace the drawers with covered shelves. Could use background Muzak-like music of Eleanor Rigby.
Related Scriptures	Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 25:42-45; Luke 8:45; Philippians 2:15
Song Suggestions	Peace (Rich Mullins); We Are One (Brooklyn Tabernacle)

Scene opens on Clerk standing at sales counter. She is straightening the merchandise and trying to keep busy. She stands, waiting for customers. She waits. She places her palms on the counter, and waits more.

One or two of Random Customers walk by individually, paying no attention to Clerk. As they approach, Clerk snaps to attention, returning to relaxed stance after they pass.

Shopper Friends 1 & 2 walk by while they pantomime animatedly talking to each other. Clerk straightens to attention as they pass. They pay no attention to Clerk and pass by. Clerk follows them with her eyes, feeling lonely.

While Clerk is still watching Shopper Friends 1 & 2 walk off, Phone Shopper starts to look at the merchandise, unfolding it and piling it up. Clerk starts over to Phone Shopper and is just about to say something when Soundfx of cell phone ringing. Phone Shopper answers phone, sees Clerk, dumps merchandise in her arms, and walks off talking. Clerk dutifully begins refolding merchandise.

Independent Shopper begins to look at merchandise. Clerk moves to customer and pantomimes a greeting. Independent Shopper angrily indicates that Clerk should just back off so customer can help his/herself. Clerk sheepishly backs away. Independent Shopper leaves.

Jumpy Shopper approaches and begins eyeing merchandise from a distance. Jumpy Shopper moves closer to merchandise but doesn't touch it. Clerk approaches. Jumpy Shopper sees Clerk, backs off and leaves. Clerk appears crestfallen and frustrated.

Clerk waits for another customer. Clerk crosses arms. Clerk uncrosses arms and drums fingers on counter.

Angry Shopper approaches with a shopping bag. Angry Shopper pulls a piece of merchandise like that on display out of shopping bag. Angry Shopper holds up merchandise and angrily points out a supposed defect on the merchandise. Angry Shopper throws merchandise in Clerk's face and angrily shakes index finger at Clerk.

Angry Shopper begins to inspect other items on counter as a possible replacement for defective merchandise. As he or she holds up first item, blocking her view of Clerk, Clerk rolls her eyes dramatically. Angry Shopper holds up a second item, and Clerk makes a face at shopper, going back to an innocent look just in time as Angry Shopper lowers merchandise. Angry Shopper holds up a third item, and Clerk makes another, more insulting face. Clerk holds face half a second too long as Angry Shopper lowers merchandise. Angry Shopper looks at Clerk suspiciously. Angry Shopper shoves third item into shopping bag and stalks off in a huff.

Clerk straightens merchandise left by Angry Shopper. Clerk leans palms on counter and waits. Random Customers pass by going in opposite directions. No one pays any attention to Clerk or merchandise.

Clerk leans elbows on counter with chin resting on fists and waits. No one passes.

Clerk places palms on cheeks and waits.

VOICE OVER OF STORE ANNOUNCER:

Attention shoppers, the store is now closing. Thank you so much for sharing your day with us.

Clerk puts cloth over display, sighs, and slouches out.

Fade to black

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