

Side Order

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



Theme and Purpose

You've got mail! A Nigerian businessman wants your help in transferring millions of dollars to an American bank account. Just send him your account information, and he'll gladly let you retain a handsome commission. The rule of thumb, of course, is that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true.

The message of Christianity sometimes sounds too good to be true. From the manger to the cross, from Eden to the end of time the message is not "be good, and God will love you," but simply "God loves you." God would rather die than live without us, and so He did. We cannot earn our way into God's favor. We have it already if we will accept it.

But there is more to the story. We often treat the gifts of the Spirit and fruit of the Spirit like side orders - treats to enjoy on our trip to heaven. But God's plan is not just to give us gifts but to shape us with those gifts and to in turn shape the world through us.

This sketch makes two points. First, God gives to us abundantly as a free gift. Second, we are called to respond to that gift in a lifestyle of growing closer to God and giving to others.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Cast list | Man Woman (married to Man) Drive-Through Speaker (off-stage) 2 kids of any age (non-speaking parts) |
| Approximate Running Time | 2 minutes |
| Scene Description | A car at a fast food drive-through window |
| Prop List | Front and back seats Drive-through speaker (can use a speaker on a stand) |
| Other Production Notes | If possible, the voice of the drive-through speaker should be filtered to sound like a real fast food drive-through speaker. But don't go overboard, the speaker delivers some of the most important lines, and they need to be understood. |
| Related Scriptures | Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:1; Romans 12:4-8; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Peter 4:10 |
| Song Suggestions | Verge of a Miracle (Rich Mullins); The Potter's Hand |

(Car pulls up to a drive-through speaker.
The man is driving, and the woman is in the
passenger seat. Two kids are in the back
seat, poking at each other.)

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

Welcome to church. May I take your order?

MAN

Uh...I'd like the love, joy, peace special. But uh I'm not
feeling so much like love today. Could I substitute a
faithfulness for the love?

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

Yes, Sir.

MAN

Honey?

WOMAN

Let me see...

MAN

You should try their kindness.

WOMAN

(with an edge)

Oh, you think so?

MAN

Definitely.

WOMAN

Okay. I'll have an order of kindness with a side of
goodness and...

(glancing at kids in back seat who are
poking each other)
also some patience.

(Kids escalate to fighting in the back
seat.)

WOMAN

(Giving a frustrated hush to the kids)
Could you super-size that patience?

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

Sure, Ma'am. Anything else?

MAN

Well, we need something for the kids. How about gentleness and self-control?

WOMAN

And love!

MAN

And love. And for a treat, what do you have in spiritual gifts?

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

Well, we have mercy, intercession, hospitality, discernment, service, charitable giving...

MAN

(nervous laugh)

Oh, no charity.

(turning to Woman)

What about hospitality, honey?

WOMAN

No way! Unless you want to clean the house.

MAN

Mercy?

(Woman indicates ambivalence. Man turns back to speaker).

MAN

Okay, make it a large order of mercy. So what's the damage?

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

No charge, Sir.

MAN

No charge? I have uh

(pulling folded bills out of his pants)

ten bucks.

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

Frankly that wouldn't begin to cover it, Sir. Really, it's free. It's not for sale. It's a gift from the management.

WOMAN

What's the catch?

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

No catch.

MAN

Great! Well, we'll be back here tomorrow!

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

Well, tomorrow we serve... a little differently.

WOMAN

(suspiciously)

How's that?

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

You can get it all right in your own home, Ma'am. Just practice Bible reading, prayer, serving people around you... things like that.

MAN

What? Are you spying on us?

WOMAN

Let's get out of here, honey. This is creeping me out.

Fade to black

Performance and photocopying rights:

Your purchase of this script grants your church unlimited use of this sketch within your programs and worship services. You may photocopy the script for each cast member, provided that the copyright notice remains on each page. Scripts and performance rights are not transferable to other organizations or persons and cannot be resold. You may not use the sketches for any commercial purpose. Usage rights do not extend to video, radio, television or film.

Side Order
(screenplay)



EXT: FAST FOOD RESTAURANT

(Car pulls up to drive-through speaker. The man is driving, and the woman is in the passenger seat. Two kids are in the back seat, poking at each other.)

EXT: CLOSE-UP OF DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER.

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

Welcome to church. May I take your order?

EXT: CLOSE-UP OF DRIVER'S SIDE WINDOW FROM ANGLE OF SIDE MIRROR.

(Man leans out window.)

MAN

Uh...I'd like the love, joy, peace special. But uh I'm not feeling so much like love today. Could I substitute a faithfulness for the love?

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

(off camera)

Yes, Sir.

MAN

(turns to wife in passenger's seat)

Honey?

EXT: CLOSE-UP FROM SIDE OF DRIVER'S WINDOW FROM ANGLE OF WINDOW ACROSS MAN TO WOMAN.

WOMAN

Let me see...

INT: CLOSE-UP OF MAN FROM PASSENGER'S SEAT POV.

MAN

You should try their kindness.

EXT: CLOSE-UP FROM SIDE OF DRIVER'S WINDOW FROM ANGLE OF WINDOW ACROSS MAN TO WOMAN.

WOMAN

(with an edge)

Oh, you think so?

MAN

(turning away from her toward camera)

Definitely.

EXT: CLOSE-UP OF DRIVER'S SIDE WINDOW FROM ANGLE OF SIDE MIRROR. CAN SEE KIDS IN BACK SEAT START TO FIGHT.

WOMAN

(leaning across man to talk to speaker)

Okay. I'll have an order of kindness with a side of goodness and...

(glancing at kids in back seat who are poking each other)

also some patience.

INT: CLOSE-UP OF KIDS FIGHTING IN BACK, SHOT FROM FRONT SEAT.

(Kids escalate fighting in the back seat.)

INT: SHOT FROM BACK SEAT.

(Mom gives a frustrated hush to the kids.)

EXT: CLOSE-UP OF DRIVER'S SIDE WINDOW FROM ANGLE OF SIDE MIRROR.

WOMAN

(turning back to window)

Could you super-size that patience?

EXT: CLOSE-UP OF DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER.

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

Sure, Ma'am. Anything else?

EXT: CLOSE-UP OF DRIVER'S SIDE WINDOW FROM
ANGLE OF SIDE MIRROR.

MAN

Well, we need something for the kids. How about gentleness
and self-control?

WOMAN

(leans across again)

And love!

MAN

And love. And for a treat, what do you have in spiritual
gifts?

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

(off camera)

Well, we have mercy, intercession, hospitality,
discernment, service, charitable giving...

MAN

(nervous laugh)

Oh, no charity.

(turning to Woman)

What about hospitality, honey?

EXT: CLOSE-UP FROM SIDE OF DRIVER'S WINDOW FROM
ANGLE OF WINDOW ACROSS MAN TO WOMAN.

WOMAN

No way! Unless you want to clean the house.

INT: CLOSE-UP OF MAN SHOT FROM PASSENGER'S
SEAT.

MAN

Mercy?

INT: CLOSE-UP OF WOMAN SHOT FROM DRIVER'S SEAT.

(Woman indicates ambivalence.)

EXT: CLOSE-UP OF DRIVER'S SIDE WINDOW FROM
ANGLE OF SIDE MIRROR.

(Man turns back to speaker.)

MAN

Okay, make it a large order of mercy. So what's the damage?

EXT: CLOSE-UP OF DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER.

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

No charge, Sir.

INT: CLOSE-UP OF MAN SHOT FROM PASSENGER'S SEAT.

MAN

No charge? I have uh...

(pulling folded bills out of his pants)

ten bucks.

EXT: CLOSE-UP OF DRIVER'S SIDE WINDOW FROM ANGLE OF SIDE MIRROR.

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

Frankly that wouldn't begin to cover it, Sir. Really, it's free. It's not for sale. It's a gift from the management.

INT: CLOSE-UP OF WOMAN SHOT FROM DRIVER'S SEAT.

WOMAN

What's the catch?

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

No catch.

EXT: CLOSE-UP OF DRIVER'S SIDE WINDOW FROM ANGLE OF DRIVER'S WINDOW.

MAN

Great! Well, we'll be back here tomorrow!

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

Well, tomorrow we serve... a little differently.

WOMAN

(suspiciously)

How's that?

DRIVE-THROUGH SPEAKER

You can get it all right in your own home, Ma'am. Just practice Bible reading, prayer, serving people around you... things like that.

EXT: CLOSE-UP OF PASSENGER'S SIDE WINDOW FROM ANGLE OF PASSENGER'S WINDOW.

MAN

What? Are you spying on us?

WOMAN

(looking straight ahead)

Let's get out of here, honey. This is creeping me out.

EXT: SHOT OF CAR DRIVING AWAY WITH SQUEALING TIRES.

Fade to black

Performance and photocopying rights:

Your purchase of this script grants your church unlimited use of this sketch within your programs and worship services. You may photocopy the script for each cast member, provided that the copyright notice remains on each page. Scripts and performance rights are not transferable to other organizations or persons and cannot be resold. You may not use the sketches for any commercial purpose. Usage rights do not extend to video, radio, television or film.