

### “The Junk Man's Christmas Dinner” Preview sample #3

(Actions **during the music sequence**.) During the music that is playing, we see Andy look at the table where he had prepared his small meal... and he is thinking. Slowly he picks up the plate and brings it to the patio recliner, and offers it to him. The man pulls himself up in the lounge some and tries to eat it on his own, but he is so weak he can hardly lift it to his lips, so Andy helps him eat, cutting the sausages into small pieces and feeding him the food. The tender music carries the scene. This is a moment for your actors to shine, and convey the pathos by their actions.

(Actions during the next paragraph.) As Andy continues to feed the man, they talk some. As he eats, the man becomes a little stronger, and after the sausages he is able to eat the crackers on his own. So Andy sits back as they talk.

Narrator: As he helped the unfortunate man, giving him the only food he had to offer, Andy began to realize that here was one that was far worse off than he was, and he began to feel more thankful for what he had. And for the first time in his life, he began to understand the scripture that said it was better to give than receive. He could see now that there was always something we can give, to meet the needs of others... and the greater the sacrifice, the greater the joy. Frank wondered if Andy had any relatives he could spend Christmas with. He replied that he did, but he had not been successful in life in recent years, and didn't want to embarrass them by coming around. They might also think he was looking for a handout, and he prided himself on never asking others for help. Truth be told, he was ashamed of himself, and his failures, and he felt that the Lord himself must be ashamed of him, and could never use someone like him.

(Actions during the next paragraph.) Frank, upon hearing about his fears that the Lord could never use him, reaches out and takes Andy's hand and shakes it, holding it for a moment as he talks.

Narrator: Taking Andy's hand and shaking it warmly, his new friend Frank tells him that the Lord has already used him in a great way. He was not only cold and hungry physically, but inside as well, and Andy had warmed and nourished his soul... and he was having the best Christmas Eve he could recall in many a year. He began to share his memories of Christmases past, and how he had been alone since losing his wife in an automobile accident years ago. As he spoke, Andy was beginning to realize that he felt much the same way about this Christmas Eve. Although Frank had only been here a very short while, his presence had reminded Andy how much he missed --and needed-- human companionship. And he decided that, whenever the opportunity presented itself, he would help others when he could. He thought of the widow in the Bible who gave all she had, her small two mites, gave more than all the others who gave from their abundance... and she went away the most blessed. And as the Lord had smiled on that scene as it happened in the temple, Andy could sense the Lord smiling down on him as he gave all that he had. Andy then considered the story of Jesus' birth that he had listened to earlier. . Jesus could have been born in a palace if he chose beforehand, but he gave up his kingly rights and became a man with all the pain that brings. Jesus didn't hold himself back from his fellow man, and gave of himself, everything he had, up to his own life. And look at what he had gained after all that!

Seeing Frank lying there resting, smiling contentedly, he knew the man's family would surely want to see him if they could. So in the morning, he decided, he would try to get him back to them. The thought came then, as if from the Lord, that his own family might likewise want to see him again. What did he have to lose by renewing his relationship with them?