

“Bill Zebub Gets the Christmas Blues”

by
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- What** In this lighthearted sketch, Bill Zebub visits a doctor hoping to cure the Christmas blues, but nothing Doc can say or do will fix what ails Bill.
- Themes:** Christmas, God’s Divine Plan, Hope, Peace
- Who** Doc (male or female)
Bill Zebub (the devil)
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Doc is in professional dress and Bill Zebub is dressed all in black. The stage is simple with a single chair and a couch or chaise.
- Why** 2 Corinthians 12:9
- How** The devil should be subtly fiendish and the doctor enthusiastically clueless as to the identity of his patient. It’s important for the audience to realize what’s going on, so play it well. Or, if you wish, the audience can be clued in before the skit begins with a simple statement like: “He’s called many things in the Bible— Lucifer, Satan, the Dragon, Beelzebub, and his goal is to turn us away from God. Join us as we examine his reaction to Christmas in Bill Zebub Gets the Christmas Blues.”
- Time** Approximately 3 minutes

Doc enters and sits in the chair.

Doc: Next.

Bill Zebub enters and extends his hand.

Bill: Hello, Doc. I'm Bill. Thank you so much for agreeing to see me on such short notice.

Doc: It's nice to meet you, Bill. Glad I could make time for you. Have a seat. *(Bill reclines on sofa)* I'm sorry you're feeling so blue, but I'll tell you...you're not the only one who finds the Christmas season difficult.

Bill: I prefer to call it the holiday season. I find the "holiday season" difficult. And difficult isn't the word I would use. I find the holiday season excruciating.

Doc: Hmm. Yes, so many expectations. Presents to buy, food to cook, houses to decorate. As I said before, many people feel overwhelmed at this time of year.

Bill: *(smiling broadly and laughing a bit)* Yes.

Doc: I see you are smiling. Does it make you feel better to know that many people share this feeling of distress?

Bill: *(still smiling)* Yes.

Doc: Well, it's often nice for my patients to discover that there are others who share the same difficulties.

Bill: Yes, knowing that the holiday season can be a difficult time for people is one of the few things that makes it bearable for me.

Doc: Have you tried turning to your community of faith? I've heard many people say that believing in a higher power can give them strength.

Bill: Oh, I'm sure there's a higher power, but Doc let me tell you, that doesn't comfort me in the least. After all, that's what this holiday season is all about. That higher power. *(bitterly)* The Almighty God.

Doc: Knowing there's an Almighty God doesn't bring you comfort?

Bill: Knowing there is a powerful, almighty God is the reason my holiday season is so stressful.

Doc: *(leans back and puts hands behind his head)* Ahh, now we're getting to the heart of it. You feel that there's too much emphasis on decorating and shopping this time of year *(leans forward)* and not enough emphasis on God.

Bill: No, I love the emphasis on decorating and shopping. It's another thing that makes the season bearable. I especially love a good Christmas jingle. How about that Walmart commercial that features "Carol of the Bells" or the Gap commercial where they are singing "The Little Drummer Boy"? They make me laugh out loud. I am especially delighted by the Pampers commercial that features the carol "Silent Night." Brilliant advertising...using something that makes people feel all warm and fuzzy to sell something that covers up a stink.

Doc: Oh, are you in advertising?

Bill: It is one of my strongest skills.

Doc: Then, why do you feel so blue this time of year?

Bill: Because, every year, I am reminded once again of my biggest failure.

Doc: Oh, I think I'm beginning to understand your dilemma. It's not that it's Christmas...

Bill: *(testily)* The Holiday Season!

Doc: Sorry. It's not the holiday season, it's the fact that it's a bad anniversary for you.

Bill: An extremely bad anniversary. A life altering day. My joy was ripped away, and I know now that I will never, ever attain my true goal.

Doc: That must be very painful for you to realize.

Bill: Excruciating.

Doc: So, what happened on this painful day?

Bill: Christ was born.

Doc: Christ was born and that took away your identity and joy? I don't believe I've ever heard anyone say that before. Tell me more.

Bill: Well, for the longest time, I could persuade people to see things my way, but after that night 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, I lost my most powerfully persuasive tool.

Doc: The birth of Christ certainly did rock the world. Tell me. What did you lose that was so important to you?

Bill: I lost my full effect of despair.

Doc: Most people would be glad to lose their despair.

Bill: Yep, but I'm not most people. Despair was my greatest persuasive tool, then God had to ruin it by sending His Son to Earth and giving people hope...

Doc: *(interrupting)* I'm sorry, Bill. Our time is up. You can make another appointment with my secretary. Oh, by the way. What did you say your last name was?

Bill: *(standing)* Zebub. Bill Zebub.

Doc: Fine. *(shakes his hand again)* Now, Bill Zebub, you just make an appointment with my secretary on the way out. When do you think you'd like to come back?

Bill: Well, Easter is always really hard for me. It's even worse than Christmas. Power made perfect in weakness...I'll never understand it.

Doc: Okay, I'll see you, then. *(Bill exits and Doc faces audience)* Bill Zebub. Why does that name ring a bell? And why does he seem so familiar?
(turns and leaves)

Lights out.