

A script from



“Grace is Unfair”

by
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- What** Three siblings are hired to clean the garage, and the one hired first has an issue with the wage paid to the one hired last. A retelling of Jesus’ parable of the “workers in the vineyard.” **Themes:** Grace, Parables, Teens, Family Relationships, Relationship with God, Humor
- Who** Josh
Lydia
Ben
Dad
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Boxes, one containing a notebook
Laptop and pile of folders and/or papers
Broom
Electronic device
Dirt and water to smudge on skin; clothing that appears soiled
Sound effect: Clock chiming
- Why** Matthew 20:1-16
- How** The stage should be set up so that the kitchen table is on one side, and the entrance to the garage is on the other. At the kitchen is a table and 2-3 chairs; at the entrance to the garage is a stack or pile of large boxes.
- Time** Approximately 8-10 minutes

The clock strikes 9:00. Dad is sitting at the kitchen table, which contains a laptop, several documents, coffee cup, etc. Josh enters.

- Dad:** Josh. You're up early. You working today?
- Josh:** Nah... I'm supposed to be taking Maddie out tonight. But...
- Dad:** But you're short on cash?
- Josh:** *(Sitting down)* She posted this thing saying she's getting her hair done... *(reading from his phone)* "because six months means we're past the Taco Bell stage."
- Dad:** I see. So where were you planning to take her?
- Josh:** *(After a telling pause)* Umm...
- Dad:** Well, listen. Mom says we're having a garage sale next weekend. I'd say a garage cleanout is worth about a day's pay. Fifty bucks sound good?
- Josh:** Seriously? Sure!
- Dad:** All right, great. *(Looking offstage, as if into the garage)* All the boxes need to be moved out and consolidated. And probably labeled. The whole thing needs to be swept out. Work area dusted, tools hung...and then boxes put back in.
- Josh:** Whoa. Has this thing been cleaned since we moved in?
- Dad:** *(Avoiding the question)* Why don't I see if I can hire some more help for you, when the others get up.

Josh rolls up his sleeves and lifts a box from the top of the stack. He blows on it, and dust flies up in his face. Coughing, he exits.

The clock strikes 12:00. Lydia enters.

- Dad:** Thought you were babysitting today?
- Lydia:** They cancelled. They're all home sick.
- Dad:** Interested in making some money at home?
- Lydia:** Ummm...depends what it is?
- Dad:** Helping your brother clean out the garage. Fifty bucks.
- Lydia:** Oh! Sure, whatever. I don't have anything else to do before the game.

Josh enters. His face and arms are smudged and sweaty.

Josh: Dad, there's stuff in there from 1982. Nine-teen-eighty-two. Really?

Lydia: Mornin', Sunshine.

Josh: How about you save the sugar and come help me out?

Lydia: I'm coming, I'm coming. (both exit)

*The clock strikes 2:00. **Josh** enters chasing **Lydia**. He is dangling a large insect or spider between his fingers and she is shrieking and smacking at him with a broom. Both are now smudged and sweaty.*

Lydia: Get that thing OUT of my face!

Dad: *(Somewhat amused)* Josh.

Josh: She was slowing down. I'm just giving her a little motivation.

Lydia: Yeah, well, you just might give me motivation to quit and let you finish it yourself! *(**Josh** and **Lydia** exit, this time she is chasing him with the broom.)*

*Clock strikes 4. Enter **Ben**, aimlessly flipping through an iPod or phone.*

Dad: Hey, Bud. What's going on?

Ben: I'm bored.

Dad: Want something to do?

Ben: *(Dismayed)* Homework?

Dad: Or...you could clean the garage with Josh and Lydia. Fifty bucks.

Ben: Fifty bucks?! Yeah!

***Ben** Exits running as **Josh** enters — they nearly collide. **Josh** should appear grimmer than ever at this point, so that his next line is particularly understated.*

Josh: Dad, I have to leave soon. And I could probably use a shower...

Dad: I see that. Hey, it's looking good in there. And Ben's coming to help you finish.

Josh: Awesome. *(He exits.)*

*The clock strikes 5. **Josh**, **Lydia**, and **Ben** enter. **Ben** should appear as though he hasn't done much of anything.*

Dad: *(Looking over their shoulders)*Wow! Looks fantastic, guys. *(Turning to Ben)*Here is fifty for you...

Ben: Yeah, fifty bucks!

Josh: *(Aside, to Lydia)*Did I just get a raise?

Lydia: What do you mean?

Josh: Ben was out there for 30 minutes and pretty much just stared at Dad's baseball trophies. If he earned fifty, I could probably buy a car.

Lydia: Dream on.

Dad: *(To Lydia)* ...and fifty for you...

Both Lydia and Ben exit. Josh's expression reflects obvious surprise and confusion.

Dad: *(To Josh)* ...and fifty for you. Thanks for your hard work. Mom will be absolutely—

About 1½ pages are missing from this script preview. To read the rest of this script and perform it, download the full version at SkitGuys.com!

ENDING:

Dad: Sure. You could start your walk with Jesus at 4 years old, like you did, and know Him your whole life—or at 40, like me, with all kinds of regrets about the years you wasted. Or take the thief on the cross, repenting on the last day of his life. God's love, His gift of eternity with Him, is the same for all of us. It's not fair. It's grace.

Josh: I know, Dad. But...you gave Ben fifty dollars. It just doesn't seem right.

Dad: I know it doesn't, and you'll have to trust me on this one. There are things I'm working on with Ben that you don't know about.

Josh: Oh. I wasn't thinking of that.

Dad: We say we want life to be fair. But if it was fair...

Josh: We'd both be sunk, wouldn't we?

Dad: Right. We all have things in our lives we wouldn't want broadcast to the world.

Josh: Like... *(deviously, reaching into a nearby box and pulling something out)* ...this notebook from Aunt Sherrie labeled "Emergency Anniversary Ideas"?

Dad: *(Lunging for it)* I've been looking all over for that!

Josh: Yeah, well... next Monday, Dad. You'd better get on it.

Dad: Thanks, Josh. *(Starts to put his arm around him, then steps back)* Hey—you really should get cleaned up.

Josh: Yeah— oh, and Dad, speaking of grace? About the car tonight...

They exit.