

“Present Day Parables: The Good Samaritan”

by
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What This lighthearted skit takes a fresh look at the parable of the good Samaritan and reminds people that we are called to love everyone, even those who load the toilet paper roll the wrong way!

Themes: Good Samaritan, Love Others, Neighbor, Compassion, Parable

Who Narrator
Victim
Frontloader 1
Frontloader 2
Frontloader 3
Frontloader 4
Backer 1
Backer 2

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Roll of toilet paper

Why Luke 10:25-37

How Narrator should be very prim, proper, and professional though emphasizing the words “hot mess” in a more aggressive tone will give comedic effect. All the “Fronts” need to display their disdain and disgust for the “Backers” in their voices and tone. The point to the skit is to emulate real-life feelings and prejudices people have.

Backer 6 especially should be tender-hearted and show genuine compassion. In contrast to the livelier actors, Backer 6 needs to be authentic and empathetic to the victim.

Time Approximately 4 minutes

Victim is laying on the floor, injured, but is frozen until the Narrator is finished speaking. Narrator addresses the audience.

Narrator: *(enters with toilet paper roll)* Today, I would like to present you all with a tale. A tale of a personal preference played out to the grandest scale. Imagine, if you will, two peoples so divided with disdain, disgust, so misguided, over a simple item whose purpose and use finds us all united. I personally will not comment on the merit or fault of either model, we all know there are two ways to hang the most critical household object of all.

Pulls out and displays a roll of toilet paper. Hold TP with paper hanging to the front so the audience can see clearly.

In this tale, this presentation refers to "Frontloaders". These are people who hang their toilet paper like so, with the paper hanging from the front. *(reverses the direction so the paper is hanging from the back)* The other way, in this world we will enter shortly, is performed by people who are "Backers." The people we are about to meet, and yes, even most of us here today feel there is, in fact, a holy and unholy way of the hanging toilet paper. One is a rapid and seamless form of hygiene. The other is an abomination and used primarily for degenerates. You may decide for yourself which is preferred, but the people in our tale today have very strong feelings and reactions on the matter. Sit back, enjoy, and smile away, or maybe you'll want to convey dismay at the following display. *(exit)*

Enter Frontloader 1 and 2, as they talk, they slowly move towards the Victim, unaware he is there.

Front 1: So, I searched online for hours, went door-to-door in several neighborhoods, and made tons of calls 'till I found the little girl who lost her drawing of space dust.

Front 2: That's why I like you. You're so kind! You really go above and beyond. I'm glad she wasn't a Backer so you could get close enough to help.

Front 1: Oh no! If the poor thing had been born a Backer. *(makes disgusted face)* It would be all kinds of wrong. Can you imagine? She probably wouldn't have been able to draw with crayons...she'd only be able to move her fingers around with mud! *(laughs)*

Front 2: Instead of pigtails, she'd have horns. *(both laugh)*

Front 1: I can't comprehend Backers. How can you leave the toilet paper dangling off the back end? You just pull and when you try to rip it...

Front 2: It just keeps falling off...just like their brain cells every time they put on a roll like that. It's detestable.

Front 1: Deplorable.

Front 2: And disgusting!

Both: *(in unison, reciting a mantra)* BACK IS WHACK! *(laugh together)*

Front 2: Backers are the worst. I bet they still read books. If they can read, that is.

Front 1: Bleck. Everyone knows that e-readers are the only way to read with any dignity whatsoever. *(mocking)* "Oh I like the smell of dead trees and ink. It's so refined."

Front 1: *(laughing)* I'm so tired of hearing the ridiculous things that Backers say.

Front 2: Somehow, they always manage to find the person with the shriekiest voice to put on TV.

Front 1: We'd be better off without them.

Victim groans, scaring Frontloaders 1 and 2.

Front 1: Miss Daisy's bedazzled denims! You scared me!

Front 2: *(concerned)* He's in bad shape! We need to help him! *(moves in to help)*

Front 1: Wait! Don't touch him. I think he may be a Backer.

Front 2: *(stops moving)* But...it looks like he's been beat up pretty bad.

Front 1: He probably deserved it. *(picks up a stick and pokes for wallet)* No wallet, no ID. Come on, let's just go.

Front 2: *(appalled)* You want to just leave him here?

Front 1: Yeah. He should have stayed away from Frontloader areas.

Victim: *(murmurs, barely audible)* Frontlo... *(points to himself with finger)*

Front 2: He's a Frontloader! *(moves to help)*

Front 1: Don't do it! He's probably just saying that. Backers will do anything to get what they want. You know they have no standards. Do you want to be responsible for bringing a Backer to a Frontloader neighborhood? What will people think? Come on. I'm leaving *(hurries to other side of stage).*

Front 2: But... *(pauses a second; whispering)* I'm sorry *(hurries to catch Frontloader 1)*.

After a brief pause, Frontloaders 2 & 3 enter. as they get close to the Victim he moves forward and groans.

Front 3: *(falling back and screaming)* I'm a Frontloader! Please don't hurt me! I have rights! I AM right! Don't eat me!

Front 4: *(calming 3)* You're ok. *(pauses)* Did you just say, "don't eat me?"

Front 3: *(timidly)* I heard Backers were cannibals and eat their weak.

Front 4: I heard they put pineapples on their pizza.

Front 3: *(in scared deadpan)* That's even worse. Who could fathom such a thing?

Front 4: Actually, I think they eat a strict diet of *(disgusted)* Burger King.

Front 3: Can you imagine them? *(mocking and getting up)* "I'm going to go eat a Whopper and then put the toilet paper in backwards and make a complete mess of everything. Barbarians.

Front 4: Anyway, I don't think this is a backer.

Front 3: I don't want to take any chances. Backers are dangerous. Always looking for a way to take what's ours.

Front 4: Look! He has his Frontloader patch on! He must have been at the leadership rally yesterday!

Front 3: Maybe he got jumped by Backers. *(gets scared)* What if they're close, waiting in ambush?

Front 4: We have to get him out of here.

Front 3: *(grabs 4 by hand)* No time! We have to leave now!

Front 4: Without helping?

Front 3: *(yells)* Don't you know what Backers are capable of? We need to go NOW! We shouldn't help anyone if it affects our own well-being.

Front 4: That doesn't sound...

Front 3: Come ON! *(pulls Frontloader 4 and both exit)*

Backers 5 and 6 enter, see and approach Victim.

Backer 5: Oh man, he's hurt bad.

Backer 6: Yeah. We need to get him to a professional.

Backer 5: *(notices patch)* Wait a second, he's a Frontloader!

Backer 6: *(pauses briefly)* Well, at least we know he won't throw Jellyfish at us again.

Backer 5: *(calms)* Yeah, that's true. *(yelling in anger)* So we should throw Sea Sponges at him!

Backer 6: *(looks at 5, confused)* You want to throw sea sponges?

Backer 5: *(sheepishly)* Yeah, I should have picked something scarier. The point is we should leave him there to rot! Look at his patch! He was at the rally last night! Did you hear the things he said?

Backer 6: Well, it's not much worse than what my in-laws have said to me.

Backer 5: But he hates us!

Backer 6: Right now, looks like he **needs** us. *(pauses)* My brother works in the ER. I'm sure he can help me figure out how I can pay for all the treatment.

Backer 5: *(irate)* You're going to pay for him?!?! He's a Fool-loader! They've hated us since we were born! They only sell us black flowers! Their most popular movies are the ones where they make fun of us! They throw their trash in our streets! They give awards to people who think of ways to humiliate us! They HATE us and it's only because of how we place paper!

Backer 6: You're probably right. But when I see this guy here, and I think about what I would do if I was in the same situation... I'd want any kind of help. Even worse, if my own children were laying in the road and a Frontloader came by, I'd still be eternally grateful for their help. We've been fighting since forever over how we hang our paper. Hasn't helped anything. Maybe with a little love, this guy will do the same.

Backer 5: But what if he doesn't?

Backer 6: *(ponders for a second)* Then at least I'll know I did my part to make things better. He will too. You won't change hate with more hate. Love is the only thing that creates love. *(begins to move Victim to carry him)*

Backer 5: *(pauses, then solemnly)* Yeah. You're right. Maybe we should all go do the same.

Backers 5 & 6 both lift Victim and support him as they all exit. Lights out.