

## A CAROL FOR THE AGE OF ENTITLEMENT

by JOHN COSPER

**GENRE:** Dark Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** Scrooge's change of heart and good will are met with ingratitude and a lust for paybacks by the Cratchit family.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** This is probably not a good stand-alone piece because the humor is so dark. Use for a sermon opener, or an illustration. Otherwise you'll leave a lot of people confused and angry. They might still be angry, but at least you'll have a chance to explain yourself.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 3M, 1F

**TOPIC:** Christmas

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 21:42; Matthew 13:14-15

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Christmas

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon illustration

**CHARACTERS:**

Scrooge  
Bob Cratchit  
Mrs. Cratchit  
Tiny Tim

**PROPS:** Dickensian props and set pieces, including a crutch

**COSTUMES:** Each player is dressed in traditional Dickens style for their character

**SOUND:** Wireless mics if desired; sound effect of breaking glass

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** The home of the Cratchits

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*The setting is the Cratchit home. Bob, Mrs. Cratchit, and Tiny Tim are on stage. There's a knock. Bob opens the door. Scrooge enters.*

**BOB:** Mr. Scrooge!

**SCROOGE:** Bob! I changed my mind on that half a day. I need you at the office now!

**BOB:** But Mr. Scrooge, we were just about to sit down--

**SCROOGE:** No excuses, Bob! You've robbed me of enough work hours today. Don't you know it's nearly eleven AM?

**BOB:** But Mr. Scrooge, it's Christmas!

**SCROOGE:** I'm tired of that excuse, you no good lay about! If you don't come with me now, I'll have no choice... *(breaks into a cheery demeanor)* but to give you a raise!

**BOB:** But Mister-- A raise?

**SCROOGE:** That's right. And I'm making you a full partner in my firm.

**BOB:** A partner?

**SCROOGE:** I was wrong to treat you so poorly all these years. I want to make it up to you and your family. I've ordered a Christmas goose to my house, and all the trimmings. And where's that youngest son of yours, Tim?

*Tiny Tim limps up.*

**TIM:** Me, sir?

**SCROOGE:** I've arranged to take you to the finest doctor in London. We'll get that leg of yours fixed up and have you running about in no time, haha!

*Pause. Long pause. Awkward pause.*

**SCROOGE:** Well? Anybody wanna say something?

**BOB:** *(angered)* That's it, is it?

**SCROOGE:** What do you mean, that's it?

**BOB:** You simpering, senile old man! Do you think you can come in here, offer me bribes and Christmas goose, and all is forgiven?

**SCROOGE:** Bribes? Listen, Bob, I just wanted—