
The Sound of the Saints

Arranged by Amber Medin

Summary: This sketch takes the audience on a journey from unwillingness to do God's work to complete surrender in doing His will for our lives. Three parables are told and woven together with other scripture. The stories are the parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-15), The parable of the Shrewd Manager (Luke 16 : 1-10) and the story of the thief in the night. (Matthew 24: 44-46)

Actor Requirements: Minimum 5, no maximum. Break up lines according to the number of actors you are working with. There are many ways to modify this sketch. Do not change the words but you can change blocking and transitions as you like. The blocking within is just a suggestion.

Note: To hear the tune of the cadence, go to www.youtube.com and type in "cadence Charlie Sheen." The clip from the movie "Cadence" will be the first option to view. The tune of the cadence in this script is the same as the movie clip but the words are changed to the following:

"That's the sound of the saints (get back)
Workin' for the Lord's... name
That's the sound of the saints
Workin' for the Lord's... name (oh don't you know OR can you hear me say it)"

Characters:

NARRATOR 1, 2, and 3

JESUS FIGURE

WORKER 1 and 2

MANAGER

DEBTOR 1 and 2

ONE

TWO

Note: The blocking is just a suggestion and not a requirement. If you do not have cubes (sturdy wooden boxes), you can use other things like chairs or benches, ladders, etc. Feel free to change the blocking completely to suit your needs.

Stage is set with three cubes—one is downstage right, one is downstage left, and the third is upstage center. Behind the downstage right cube is a robber mask. Behind the downstage left

cube are rubber dog snouts or ears (anything to signify you are dogs). Behind the upstage center cube are two dog leashes (use any kind of rope or twine).

Music underscoring begins—Actors can read the following as Voice Overs before entering the stage, they can appear on Power Point slides, or actors not cadencing onto stage can say them. Use your imagination!

SLIDE ONE Moses said to the LORD, “O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.... O Lord, *please send someone else to do it.*” (*Exodus 4:10,13, NIV*)

SLIDE TWO The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” *But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish.* (*Jonah 1:1–3a, NIV*)

SLIDE THREE Elijah was afraid and ran for his life... He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “*I have had enough, LORD,*” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” (*I Kings 19:3,4, NIV*)

Music underscoring fades as you hear the cadence of the WORKERS. (That’s the sound of the saints, get back, workin’ for the Lord’s name,...”) WORKERS cadence onto stage.

JESUS *Cadence lessens and JESUS speaks this line over it.*
The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. (*Matthew 9:37–38, NIV*)

Continue cadence into position. Raise the volume to normal after JESUS finishes the line.

NARRATOR 1 God’s kingdom is like an estate manager who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. They agreed on a wage of a dollar a day, and went to work. (*JESUS gets WORKER 1*) Later, about nine o’clock, the manager saw some other men hanging around

the town square unemployed. He told them to go to work in his vineyard and he would pay them a fair wage. They went. (*JESUS gets WORKER 2*) He did the same thing at noon, and again at three o'clock. At five o'clock he went back and found still others standing around.

JESUS (*to NARRATOR, doubling as the last WORKER*)
Why are you standing around all day doing nothing?

NARRATOR 1 Because no one hired us [me].

He told them to go to work in his vineyard. When the day's work was over, the owner of the vineyard instructed his foreman,

JESUS Call the workers in and pay them their wages. Start with the last hired and go on to the first.

NARRATOR 1 Those hired at five o'clock came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more. But they got the same, each of them one dollar. Taking the dollar, they groused angrily to the manager,

WORKER 1 These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who slaved all day under a scorching sun.

NARRATOR 1 He replied to the one speaking for the rest,

JESUS Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn't we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can't I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?
(*Matthew 20:1–15, The Message*)

WORKER 1 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. (*I Corinthians 3:7–9, The Message*)

Cadence into place...

NARRATOR 2 Jesus said to his disciples,

JESUS There was once a rich man who had a manager. (*JESUS identifies the MANAGER*) He got reports that the manager had been taking advantage of his position by running up huge personal expenses. So he called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? You're fired. And I want a complete audit of your books.'

NARRATOR 2 The manager said to himself,

MANAGER What am I going to do? I've lost my job as manager. I'm not strong enough for a laboring job, and I'm too proud to beg.... Ah, I've got a plan... Then when I'm turned out into the street, people will take me into their houses.

NARRATOR 2 Then he went at it. One after another, he called in the people who were in debt to his master. He said to the first,

MANAGER How much do you owe my master?

DEBTOR 1 A hundred jugs of olive oil.

MANAGER Here, take your bill, sit down here—quick now—write fifty.

NARRATOR 2 To the next he said,

MANAGER And you, what do you owe?

DEBTOR 2 A hundred sacks of wheat.

MANAGER Take your bill, write in eighty.

JESUS Now here's a surprise: The master praised the crooked manager! And why? Because he knew how to look after himself. Streetwise people are smarter in this regard than law-abiding citizens. They are on

constant alert, looking for angles, surviving by their wits. I want you to be smart in the same way—but for what is right—using every adversity to stimulate you to creative survival, to concentrate your attention on the bare essentials, so you’ll live, really live, and not complacently just get by on good behavior. *(Luke 16:1–10)*

Cadence into place...

NARRATOR 3 The Son of Man’s arrival will be *(snaps her fingers)* like that: Two men *(Male actors turn DS)* will be working in the field—one will be taken, one left behind *(one leaves)*; two women *(Female actors turn DS)* will be grinding at the mill—one will be taken, one left behind. So stay awake, alert. You have no idea what day your Master will show up. *(During this next segment, one male puts on a burglar mask. Other leash as the two females become the guard dogs.)* But you do know this: You know that if the homeowner had known what time of night the burglar would arrive, he would have been there with his dogs to prevent the break-in. Be vigilant just like that. You have no idea when the Son of Man is going to show up.

Who here qualifies for the job of overseeing the kitchen? *(All scramble into a line desiring to be the one chosen.)* A person the Master can depend on to feed the workers on time each day. Someone the Master can drop in on unannounced and always find him doing his job. A God-blessed man or woman, I tell you. It won’t be long before the Master will put this person in charge of the whole operation. *(Matthew 24:44–46, The Message)*

ONE Therefore, my dear brothers,

ALL stand firm.

ONE Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. *(I Corinthians 15:58)*

TWO Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for

the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

ALL It is the Lord Christ... YOU—ARE—SERVING. (*Colossians 3:23–24*)

Cadence out while the following slides scroll on PowerPoint or while other non-cadencing actors say the lines from stage or by voice-over.

SLIDE 1 The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it.” (*Nehemiah 2:4–5, NIV*)

SLIDE 2 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. *Send me!*” (*Isaiah 6:8, NIV*)