

Encore 2026 – Drama Troupe B

The Very Happy Man (Based on Acts 3: 1-26)

by Jeremiah Gamble
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Cast: 6 or more, Large ensemble

Note:

This is a verrrrry theatrical piece. Use your imagination, creativity and expressivity to tell the story. No need for props– they’ll just get in the way and complicate things. If you’re short on actors, you can have actors play multiple roles– except you should keep Man, and Narrator, each as separate, consistent characters. You can have fun with the dynamic that the same few actors must -keep becoming new characters. It becomes like a theatrical obstacle course. Have fun with it!

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**Ensemble:** Listen, listen, listen!

**Narrator:** There once was a happy man!

*Man waves. (Basically, the man will “do” whatever the story says he is doing and respond as the story unfolds.)*

**Ensemble:** Ta da!

**Narrator:** He was happy because he lived in a big, beautiful house.

**Ensemble:** Ooh!

**Narrator:** And in his beautiful house he had all the best things–

**Ensemble:** Aaah!

**Narrator:** and tons of good food to eat.

**Ensemble:** Yum!

**Narrator:** He had this beautiful house and all these things and all this food because he had an incredible job–

*A few actors become a machine. Man pretends to push buttons on machine and machine actors make machine sounds and do machine-like motions. If you don’t have enough actors, one or two actors can be Machine*

**Machine 1:** Beep bop

**Machine 2:** Boop.

**Machine 3:** Ding!

**Narrator:** that paid him lots of money!

*Actor pretends to hand Man a bag of money.*

**Ensemble:** Cha-ching!

**Narrator:** And he was the picture of perfect health.

*Man, jogs in place, so does rest of the Ensemble, but Man is winning.*

**Narrator:** He felt great. Why shouldn't he?

*Actor holds up Man's arm and pronounces—*

**Actor:** The winner!

**Narrator:** And of course, he had lots of friends.

*Ensemble gives Man high fives.*

**Narrator:** Who wouldn't want to be his friend? And his family!

*Ensemble gathers around Man as if they're posing to take a family picture. Of course, there can also be a photographer.*

**Narrator:** His loving family. They were so proud of him. He had everything. He was so happy.

**Ensemble:** *(posing for picture)* Cheese!

**Narrator:** Well... what if his life was different? What if he didn't have a big, beautiful house? What if he had no house at all?

*Little by little the Ensemble leaves the Man.*

**Narrator:** No things, no food, no job and no money? And what if he was sick? He couldn't even walk. In fact, what if, he'd never been able to walk. He had no friends, and his family was embarrassed of him. He had nothing.

*At this point, the Man should be standing all alone.*

**Narrator:** Well, our story is about this man. This man, who had nothing. Every morning, he would curl up his useless legs and sit on the dusty ground just outside a big, beautiful church.

*Part of the Ensemble (could be one person) forms a church building and/or stands as if they're in church.*

**Church people:** (*praying the Lord's Prayer*) Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name.

**Narrator:** This homeless man would hold out an empty cup and beg for money as people walked by on their way to the church. Well, one morning two (*or can be one person*) happy people walked by. The homeless man asked,

**Man:** Please help me. I have nothing.

**Narrator:** But they wouldn't even look at him. They just walked by and went into the church.

*They join the Ensemble that's forming the church.*

**Church people:** (*continuing the Lord's Prayer*) Thy Kingdom Come.

**Narrator:** Two more people passed. (*again, this could also be one, or three*) Again the homeless man asked,

**Man:** Please help me. I have nothing.

**Narrator:** But they said,

**People:** We can't. We just can't.

**Narrator:** and they rushed by and went into church.

*They join the rest of the church ensemble.*

**Church people:** (*continuing the Lord's Prayer*) Thy will be done.

**Narrator:** Two more people walked by on their way to church, but they stopped. And each dropped a single coin into his cup. They were very careful not to touch him. No one ever touched him.

*They join the rest of the church ensemble.*

**Church people:** (*continuing the Lord's Prayer*) On earth as it is in heaven.

**Narrator:** A little later he saw two men walking toward him. They were looking right at him! One of them reached out his hand and said,

**Peter:** Hello, I'm Peter.

**Narrator:** The other man introduced himself,

**John:** Hi, I'm John.

**Narrator:** They touched him! No one ever did that! Then Peter asked,

**Peter:** What's your name?

**Narrator:** The homeless man had to think for a moment. No one ever called him by name. Man: My name is... Isaac.

**Narrator:** Isaac held out his cup and said,

**Man:** Please help me. I have nothing.

**Narrator:** Peter and John dug into their pockets, but they had no money.

**Peter:** We can't give you money, but we can give you a new life.

**John:** Full of joy!

**Narrator:** The homeless man, Isaac, shook his head and said,

**Man:** That's impossible.

**Narrator:** Peter reached out his hand to Isaac and said,

**Peter:** Get up and walk.

**Narrator:** Isaac said,

**Man:** That's impossible!

**Narrator:** John reached out his hand too and said,

**John:** With Jesus the impossible is possible.

**Narrator:** So, Isaac set down his cup and took Peter and John by the hand and—

*Ensemble does a drum roll.*

**Narrator:** he— stood— up!

*Ensemble gasps!*

**Narrator:** He had never stood up in his whole life! He was so tall! He tried taking a tiny step.

*Ensemble gasps again.*

**Narrator:** It worked! He had never taken a step before! He did a little hop.

*Ensemble gasps yet again.*

**Narrator:** Then he did a big hop, because he wanted to hop– because he felt like hopping! And just at that moment, the church bell rang–

**Ensemble:** *(church bells)* Ding dong, ding dong!

*The church people all file out of church.*

**Narrator:** and everyone who passed him earlier walked out. He went up to them, looked them right in the eye and said,

**Man:** The impossible is possible! *(Peter and John join him on the rest)* The impossible is possible. The impossible is possible!

**Narrator:** He was a very happy man.

**All:** The impossible is possible!