



Bible Drama Scripts
presents

I CAN'T SEE!

By Patricia Souder

SYNOPSIS: Zacchaeus asks the woman in front of him to move over so he can see Jesus. She refuses to move and speaks derisively to her neighbor, saying she can't see why a "cheating little tax collector" like Zacchaeus would want to see Jesus . . . or why Jesus would want to see him. The ironic twist at the end challenges presuppositions about who can and who can't see.

SETTING: The crowded streets of Jericho as Jesus comes to town.

CHARACTERS: ZACCHAEUS and WOMAN IN THE CROWD.

PERFORMANCE TIME: 2-3 minutes.

PERFORMANCE NOTE: Characters say lines together when marked with a star.

TOPICS: God's grace. Salvation. Pride. Spiritual sight . . . and blindness.

PERFORMANCE POSSIBILITIES: Small groups. Street evangelism. Youth events. Sermon illustration.

BIBLE REFERENCE: Luke 19:1-10.

ZACCHAEUS

(Stands on tiptoe. Cranes neck from side to side. Crouches and squints as if trying to see through the crowd. Taps woman in front of him on shoulder.)

Excuse me, but could you move over
just a little? I can't see.

(Smiles in expectation.)

Jesus will be here soon.

I want to see Jesus.

Jesus!

Oh, dear, I do want to see Jesus!

I've just *got* to see Jesus!

(Sighs and shakes head. Looks up.)

WOMAN IN CROWD

(Looks over her shoulder to see who's speaking. Talks to imaginary person next to her.)

It's Zacchaeus, the tax collector.

(Widens stance.)

He can't see. Imagine that, Susanna:

Zacchaeus, the cheating little tax collector
can't see. *(Laughs derisively.)*

Well, *I can't see* why that matters,
can you, Susanna?

He wants to see Jesus?

Now I've heard of everything!

If I were a conniving little bandit
who got rich by overcharging the poor,
the last person I'd want to see would be . . .

(Changes tone as if sees Jesus coming.)

★ Jesus!

★ Oh, look, I can almost see Jesus!

ZACCHAEUSWOMAN IN CROWD

(Looks up. Gets surprised look on face.

Taps friend on shoulder.)

Susanna . . .

Look who's up a tree!

(Laughs derisively.)

What a great place for a tricky,

two-timing tax thief to be!

Only . . . If it were me . . .

The last person in the world I'd want to see

would be . . .

(Pauses. Tone changes to surprise.)

Jesus?

★

Jesus.

(Pauses while looking at tree.)

(Pauses while looking at tree.)

Jesus is stopping by *my* tree?

★

Jesus is stopping by *his* tree?

Jesus is asking to come to *my* house?

★

Jesus is asking to go to *his* house?

(Overwhelmed.)

(Indignantly.)

Why, if I were Jesus,

★

Why, if I were Jesus,

the last person I'd want to see . . .

★

the last person I'd want to see . . .

or be seen with . . . would be . . .

★

or be seen with . . . would be . . .

a sinner like Zacchaeus.

a sinner like me!

(Upset.) Susanna . . . I hate to say it . . .

(Pauses and shakes head.)

But I just can't see!