

The Return

By Teri Kistler

CAST: 2 males

Frank Tate: College professor, 50s, dressed for Saturday yard work.

Matt: College student, dressed in Dockers and a polo shirt, store nametag.

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

PROPS

- New garden hose
- Receipt
- Business card
- Signage for Returns counter; Home Station (optional)

STORY

Ethics professor, Frank Tate, attempts to return a purchase without a receipt and faces an obstacle that results in his compromising his ethics.

THEMES

Hypocrisy. Wisdom. Compromising. Integrity. Courage. Character. Honesty. Falsehood.

SCRIPTURE

James 1:23-24. James 1:8.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

This sketch was written for a sermon series based on James.

The Return

(We're at the Returns counter of The Home Station in the middle of a transaction. A heated exchange led by Frank Tate, a frustrated and irate customer, is taking place)

FRANK

Just give me the refund and I'll be on my way.

MATT

No receipt. No refund.

FRANK

Seventeen minutes. Seventeen minutes I've been waiting patiently in line!

MATT

Sir ...

FRANK

I'll speak to your manager now.

MATT

I'm afraid he'll say the same: No receipt --

FRANK

-- No refund. We'll see about that. Call him over. I can see him up there: glassed-in offices make it so hard to loaf.

MATT

That's not my manager; that's our supervisor.

FRANK

Supervisor, manager. Get him out here!

MATT

My manager will be back at three. He's away from the office.

FRANK

How convenient for him.

MATT

He'll be back at three.

FRANK

Perhaps your supervisor can deal with it.

MATT

I'm dealing with it: No receipt. No refund.

FRANK

Tell ya what I'm going to do. We're going to start over. Let's say I do have a receipt ...

(Taking receipt from his wallet)

Oh, look, here it is!

MATT

(Looking at the receipt)

Sears.

(Passing it back)

Sorry, won't fly. Home Station's policy is not to accept returned items from other vendors.

FRANK

You were the vendor! The receipt is immaterial.

END OF SAMPLE

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