

Encyclopedia of Comedy Gospel

Ventriloquist and Puppet Routines **Book Two**

OLD TESTAMENT STORIES

1. The Tree Of Life (Genesis 3)
2. Noah (Genesis 6)
3. Abram & The Four Kings (Genesis 16)
4. Sarah's Story (Genesis 18)
5. Joseph (Genesis 37-41)
6. God's Chosen Leader (Exodus 3)
7. The Plagues (Exodus 7-10)
8. Leaving Egypt (Exodus 13)
9. The Wilderness Experience (Exodus 17, Numbers 14)
10. The Twelve Spies (Numbers 13-14)
11. Aaron's Rod (Numbers 17)
12. Balak and Balaam – The Christmas Star (Numbers 22-24)
13. Rahab (Joshua 2 & 6)
14. Story of Ruth (Ruth 14)
15. Hannah (I Samuel 1)
16. God Chose David To Be King (I Samuel 16)
17. Saul Tries To Kill David (I Samuel 18-19, Ps.59)
18. David and Jonathan (I Samuel 20)
19. David In The Cave (I Samuel 24)
20. David and Nabel (I Samuel 26)
21. David and Saul Go To Battle (I Samuel 29, 31)
22. Building The Temple
23. Elisha and The Syrian Army (2 Kings 6)
24. King Azariah (2 Chronicles 26)
25. King Hoshea (2 Kings 17:15-31)
26. King Sennacherib (Isaiah 36-37)
27. King Hezekiah (Isaiah 38-39)
28. Hilkiah Finds The Scroll (2 Chronicles 34)
29. Daniel's Prayer For Repentance (Daniel 9)
30. Queen Esther (Esther 3-8)

NEW TESTAMENT STORIES

31. The Unheeded Announcement (Luke 2 & Matthew 2)
32. Called Out of Egypt (Matthew 2:15, Hosea 11:1)
33. Ramah (Matthew 2:18)
34. Herod, The Great (Matthew 2)
35. The Missing Son (Luke 2)
36. The Woman At The Well (John 4)
37. The Good Samaritan (Luke 10)
38. Knockin' and Knockin' (Luke 11)
39. The Rich Fool (Luke 12)
40. The Dishonest Manager (Luke 16)
41. The Rich Young Man (Luke 18)
42. The Money Changers (Matthew 21)
43. Jesus Teaches In The Temple (Matthew 22)
44. The Widow's Coins (Mark 12)
45. The False Messiahs (Acts 5)
46. Tale of Two Cities (Acts 17)
47. Paul In Athens (Acts 17)
48. The Evil Spirits of Ephesus (Acts 19)
49. Farewell To The Ephesians (Acts 20, Revelation 2)
50. Peter In Antioch (Galatians 2)
51. Francis of Assisi – The First Manger Scene

42. THE MONEY CHANGERS

(Matthew 21)

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JIM: Three times a year, all the Jewish people traveled to Jerusalem.

SIDNEY: **(Sing)** Over the river and through the woods...

JIM: One of those times was the Passover.

SIDNEY: The holiday where they celebrated pastry.

JIM: Pastry?

SIDNEY: You know, like apple passovers, peach passovers, green bean passovers...

JIM: Oh, you're thinking of turnovers.

SIDNEY: So they went to Jerusalem to celebrate turnovers? That seems kind of silly.

JIM: They celebrated Passover. That's when they remembered how God had rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Now, it was the custom at Passover for the people of Jerusalem to go out and meet the travelers.

SIDNEY: And throw tomatoes at them. Get out of here! Stay in your own towns!

JIM: They were welcoming them to the city. Even though these travelers were coming from lots of different countries, they were all brothers and sisters in the Lord. So the people of Jerusalem would wave palm branches and shout, "Hosanna! Hosanna!"

SIDNEY: Why would they want to know that?

JIM: Know what?

SIDNEY: **(Shout)** Who's Anna? Who's Anna?

JIM: No, no. The word is hosanna and it meant "save us, save us". But over time it had taken on the meaning, "God has saved us, God has saved us", and was used as a word of praise. One year, several days before Passover, the people of the city went out to meet the travelers. They were waving their palm branches and shouting "Hosanna! Hosanna!" when a whisper started spreading through the crowd.

SIDNEY: They've got turnovers! They've got turnovers!

JIM: No. The people were whispering, "Jesus is here! Jesus is here!"

SIDNEY: And he's got turnovers!

JIM: The crowd started getting really excited. They had heard how Jesus had been healing people throughout the land.

SIDNEY: He was a doctor?

JIM: Jesus wasn't a doctor.

SIDNEY: He just plays one on TV.

JIM: He was the Son of God and He had come to bring everlasting life. But the people were hoping they'd get to see Him do a miracle, so they greeted Jesus by laying down palm branches in the road and shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

SIDNEY: Bananas to the Son of David!

JIM: When Jesus came into the city, the first place He went was to the temple of God.

SIDNEY: That's where the roller coaster was.

JIM: That's where people worshipped God. Jesus looked around the temple and you know what He saw?

SIDNEY: Space, the final frontier.

JIM: He saw that the temple court was filled with merchants.

SIDNEY: With urchins?

JIM: Merchants. Salesmen. People needed to buy animals for the sacrifices and for the feast and the merchants were charging really high prices. And they were changing money.

SIDNEY: Making change for the pop machine.

JIM: See, they had a law that said you could only buy the animals with a special coin, so the people had to change their money for this special coin and they were charged a fee for it. It was getting near evening, so Jesus went to the place where He would spend the night. The next morning...

SIDNEY: He climbed out of his Craftmatic adjustable bed.

JIM: He returned to the temple.

SIDNEY: To get an Egg McMuffin for breakfast.

JIM: Jesus had more important things on His mind. Without saying anything, He started tipping tables over.

SIDNEY: When I do that, I get a spanking.

JIM: He spilled the money all over the ground.

SIDNEY: They need Bounty, the quicker picker upper.

JIM: And He set all the animals free and chased them out of the temple.

SIDNEY: Shoo cow, don't bother me.

JIM: The priests and the merchants, were really upset. But Jesus said...

SIDNEY: Nah, nah, nah, nah, nah.

JIM: "God wants His house to be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves! "

SIDNEY: They could have made it a den of Boy Scouts.

JIM: All the common people who had to pay the expensive fees thought this was so great.

SIDNEY: Better than daytime TV.

JIM: The children in the temple started shouting, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" The priest and the teachers of the law thought the children were being disrespectful.

SIDNEY: So they sent the kids to their room without supper.

JIM: But when they complained to Jesus, He said, "God wants praise to come from the lips of children."

SIDNEY: In my experience what usually comes from the lips of children is drool.

JIM: God does love it when praise comes from children. But there's a warning here! Jesus was upset because the merchants were cheating their brothers and sisters in the Lord. God is not happy when Christians mistreat each other. Let's be very careful how we treat each other in God's family.