

# THE NIGHT BEN FILBERT WAS TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL

By Gregory Giordano

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Ben Filbert is a successful businessman who has all that money can buy, except one thing: a new heart. Because of his material success, Ben has no need for God. On Christmas Eve, Ben revels in belittling his employees. He also brusquely refuses an employee's invitation to attend a church service. Ben's guardian angel, who has found Ben to be a tough charge over the years, knows that this Christmas Eve is a special one. After guiding Ben through some mishaps, the angel allows Ben to be mugged and dragged away. After escaping from his robbers, Ben finds himself in a strange neighborhood. Without any money, Ben seeks refuge in the very church he refused to visit earlier. After being welcomed with open arms by the congregation, Ben has a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, who heals his diseased heart. After his encounter, Ben finally acknowledges his need for a savior. Here is a fast-paced play that is full of humor and action. It is fun to stage and fun to watch.

### **SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY**

Scene 1 - Clerical office.

Scene 2 - Ben's office.

Scene 3 - The street.

Scene 4 - Street/church.

Running time: 35 minutes.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(9 M, 2 W, 3 FLEX)*

**ANGEL**

Man in his twenties or thirties.

**BEN**

Middle-aged man who needs a new heart.

**BOBBI**

Ben's employee a woman of any age.

**CATHY**

Another.

**FRED**

Man of any age. Employee that invites Ben to church.

**STREET PERSON**

Begs for a handout from Ben.

**MAN**

Causes an accident.

**FIRST TOUGH**

Man in teens or twenties.

**SECOND TOUGH**

Another.

**PASTOR TIM**

Welcomes Ben.

**FIRST PARISHIONER**

Man or woman of any age.

**SECOND PARISHIONER**

Another.

**DEMON**

Tries to get Ben back.

**JESUS**

The Healer.

### **SCENE DESCRIPTION, PROPS, and COSTUMES**

**SCENE 1** - Clerical office - a barely furnished office with little decoration. Backdrops, if used, should be very plain.

PROPS: Two desks, Two chairs, Assorted office machines, desk tools, etc., Three envelopes with five-dollar bills inside

COSTUMES/CLOTHING: Casual clothing for Angel, Business attire for Ben, Bobbi, Cathy and Fred, Two ladies winter coats for Bobbi and Cathy, (Note - these costumes will be worn in subsequent scenes)

**SCENE 2** - Ben's office - lavishly furnished office with lots of decoration. Backdrops, if used, should have windows, etc.

PROPS: One large desk, One executive chair, Assorted books and papers for the desk, Assorted desk tools, Telephone, Poster showing Filbert Industries' weekly sales, Church bulletin

COSTUMES/CLOTHING: Two men's winter coats for Ben and Fred, (Note - these are to be used in subsequent scenes.)

**SCENE 3** - The street - empty street. Back drops, if used, can show buildings, garbage cans, etc.

PROPS: Wallet, Bicycle

COSTUMES/CLOTHING: Ragged clothing for street person, Winter clothing for man, Leather or rough-looking clothing for the two toughs

**SCENE 4** - Street/the church - a simply furnished church with a small amount of Christmas decoration. Backdrops, if used, can show stained-glass windows, etc.

PROPS: Six chairs, Podium, Six Bibles, Church bulletins

COSTUMES/CLOTHING: Church clothes for Pastor Tim and two parishioners, Black clothing for demon, White gown for Jesus

**SCENE 1**

*(AT RISE: Clerical Office. The LIGHTS are down. Christmas music plays for several moments and then is lowered as ANGEL begins to speak.)*

VOICE OF ANGEL: Hi, I'm an angel. Really, I am. In fact, I was one of the multitude of heavenly hosts who sang to announce the birth of Jesus. What a glorious night that was. Well, I know you don't hear from us too often, but I'm here for a special reason. I'm going to let you watch a very important Christmas Eve in the life of Ben Filbert. He is a man who has everything the world has to offer: money, success and more money. But he is missing the single most important thing in life: Jesus. Let's open our look at Ben's Christmas Eve with a peek inside Filbert Industries.

*(The LIGHTS come up to reveal BOBBI and CATHY seated at their desks.)*

BOBBI: It's five to five on Christmas Eve and we're still at work.

CATHY: In just a few minutes we'll be on our way.

BOBBI: You'd think that he could at least have given us half a day today. I mean, tomorrow is Christmas.

CATHY: I know, but why should we be surprised? He's never given us half a day any other year.

BOBBI: I guess, but that still doesn't make it right.

CATHY: *(Begins to clear off HER desk)* Aren't you going to get ready to leave?

BOBBI: Get ready? I've been set to go for an hour. You know, I was going to call in sick today, but then I was afraid if I did, he might dock me my holiday pay.

*(The office door opens and BEN enters SR.)*

BEN: A Merry Christmas Eve, ladies.

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BOBBI and CATHY: *(In unison)* Merry Christmas Eve, Mr. Filbert.

BEN: Fred, where are you?

*(FRED runs in.)*

FRED: *(Submissively)* Right here, Mr. Filbert.

BEN: Good. I want every one here for the party.

BOBBI: Party?

BEN: Yes, we are going to have a Christmas Eve party.

BOBBI and CATHY: *(Shocked, in unison)* We are?

BOBBI: Why? We've never had one before.

BEN: This Christmas is special.

BOBBI: Well, then, let's party!

BEN: Right. Go ahead.

*(BOBBI, CATHY and FRED stand silently for several moments.)*

BEN: Well, what is everyone waiting for?

CATHY: What do you mean, Mr. Filbert?

BEN: I want everyone to party. Make noise, become festive.

*(BOBBI, CATHY and FRED exchange uncomfortable glances. BEN glowers menacingly at them.)*

BOBBI: Huh, hooray...

BEN: Excellent. It's your turn to be merry, Fred.

FRED: Uh, yahoo!

BEN: Wonderful! Well, that's enough gaiety for one evening.

Oh, I almost forgot. I have your Christmas bonuses.

BOBBI: Christmas bonuses! I can't believe my ears.

BEN: It has been a very profitable year and I felt that I would like to share it with the people who made it all possible.

*(BEN hands an envelope each to FRED, CATHY and BOBBI.)*

FRED, BOBBI and CATHY: *(In unison)* Thank you, Mr. Filbert.

BEN: Good night. It's five o'clock.

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