

Watch and Pray Skit #5

Shells

Kevin Lee

Performers x 4

Uncle Muggins/Narrator

Danny boy

Shell collector

Shop owner

Props

Shop counter

Shells

Body board?

(Uncle Muggins and Danny are walking on the beach, when they meet another man, who is collecting shells).

Unc. "Hello....Those are nice shells you're collecting...are they your favourites?"

She. "No...we trade them at the store..."

Unc. "Up on the road?"

She. "Yes...he doesn't take money...he only takes barter...and we barter these shells!"

Unc. "Really?"

She. "Yes...If you collect them, you can barter them there too!"

Unc. "Can I?...Yes, I will...Thank you...Come on Danny, collect as many as you can...and we'll go shopping"

Dan. "I don't know Uncle...they're just ordinary shells?"

Unc. "One man's trash is another man's treasure as they say..."

Dan. "But, they're only shells?"

Unc. "No boy...we can do it if others can...come on..."

Dan. "But..."

Unc. "Come on..."

(They collect shells off the beach, then go into the store, and look around).

Sto. "May I help you Sir?"

Unc. Yes, I'd like that Body Board over there...It says 50...is that 50 shells?"

Sto. "You could say that Sir...You have to shell out 50!"

Unc. (Dumps his shells on the counter and begins counting). "I've got fifty here, one, two, three, ..."

Sto. "Excuse me...You have to shell out fifty bucks...not fifty shells..."

Unc. "But the man on the beach said you barter for shells?"

Sto. "Look!...I don't know what you've been sniffing old man...But I'm not swapping those shells for that board!"

Dan. "Come on Uncle...we should go..."

Unc. "No, no...just trust me..."

Unc. (To the shop owner). "Are these the wrong kind?"

Sto. "They're all the wrong kind, you old fool!...This is 2020, not 1620!"

Unc. "But that nice young man on the beach told me, you only barter for shells?"

Sto. "Look, you old fool...If I wanted those shells, I would go down to the beach...and pick them up for myself..."

Unc. "But I've saved you the bother...and I'm willing to trade all of these nice shells for

that Body Board..."

Sto. "Okay!...Okay!...That's it!"

Unc. "Good!" (Pushes the shells across the counter).

Sto. "No!...I'm calling the Police!"

Unc. "Do they barter for shells too?"

Sto. "No, you old monkey...I'm going to get them to arrest you!"

Unc. "What for?...These are real shells...There aren't any counterfeits here!"

Sto. (Angrily). "Oh!...Oh!...Okay!...Okay!...You win...I'll take your shells for the Body Board..."

Unc. "You've got yourself a bargain here young man...there are more than fifty shells...I'll just count them for you..."

Sto. "No thank you...I'll take your word for it...Just take the board and go...and don't come back...ever..."

Unc. "Bye...and thank you too...I'm going back to the beach to get more shells...I want that Surfboard over there...It says 100...That must be one hundred shells, isn't it?"

Sto. "No!...No! No! No!...I'm going on holiday...as far away from here as I can...I'm going to Tahiti...surfing...for a month...Shop's closed...Goodbye!"

(Uncle and Danny walk away).

Unc. "He's a bit grumpy...There were well over fifty shells there...He must have done well out of that if he can afford to shut up shop, and go to Tahiti for a month!..."

Dan. "I'm getting hungry, Uncle..."

Unc. "So am I boy...Let's go and collect some more shells...That Petrol Station might take them too...We could buy a pie and a drink for lunch...Come on..."

(They walk off).

Nar. "The true value of anything is what its owner values it at...To one man a body board may be worth 50 dollars...but to a drowning man, it would be worth a King's ransom.

Salvation is the same...Deitrich Bonhoeffer wrote about 'cheap grace'...the kind peddled at the market-place at bargain-basement prices...it costs you nothing, and you gain everything...You become a Christian, and have Eternal Life...But that is a lie...and it is just as deceiving as believing the shells you pick up for free off the beach are equal in value to money.

The true grace of God costs you everything you have...*'For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's'*...as St Paul put it.

'Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat...Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.'...That is the cost God puts on Salvation, it's a strait and narrow way.... It's a costly transaction, not an easy way...but that is because of the value He sets on Salvation."

End

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