**SHORT CHANGE**

**By Rod**

*Based on Luke 19 vv 1-10. This is a re-enactment of the story of Zacchaeus emphasising the CHANGE that came about in him.*

*CAST*

*Narrator To read the poem*

*Zac Should be small – probably a child*

*Jesus*

*Other actors to take various parts. (Can be done with minimum of two, A & B bit more could be added if available)*

***Props needed:***

*Table,*

*2 chairs*

*Stack of coins (Could use chocolate money) on table at beginning, but not stacked*

*More coins for A & B (starts in their pockets)*

*Tape measure*

*Financial Times*

*Large pot marked ‘ROME’*

*Rotten fruit (toy fruit/soft ball/paper balls) to throw*

*Plate,*

*Knife and fork*

*2 teacups*

*Teapot*

*2 plates*

*2 tea knives*

*Begging bowl*

*Small step/stool*

*All actors are standing in a row with Zac in the middle except Jesus who is off stage. Table and chair are set stage left with some coins on it.*

*Large props table at the back.*

Now this is the tale of Zacchaeus, *Zac steps forward*

A tale that I am keen to report.

Now nothing much rhymes with Zacchaeus, *Other actors puzzle, looking for rhymes*

So it's Zac that we'll call him for short. *Thumbs up from actors.*

And 'short' best describes Zac our hero; *Two actors move either side of Z*

No Goliath nor Charles Atlas, Zac. *Zac flexes muscles, others shake heads.*

Instead he was vertic'ly challenged; *A measure Z with tape*

It was inches that Zac he did lack. *B marks off difference between Z, and A & B*

When it came to matters of finance, *A & B go to get Financial Times*

T'was quite diff'rent for short statured Zac. *They read it together*

He never ran short of the readies, *Z moves to sit at table*

Ev'ry evening he counted his stack. *Counts a stack of coins*

He'd acquired his coinage collection *A & B now Jews paying tax to Z who is*

As tax collector working for Rome. *seated at his table*

But he'd used an old Swedish adage,

"Make sure you keep plenty Stockholm".

He taxed fellow Jews for the Romans, *A & B each pay tax in turn.*

The Roman rate he duly applied, *Z puts some money in pot marked Rome*

But he added an extra percentage. *But some he adds to his pile*

Yes, Zac had his own bit on the side.

So Zac was not in with his fellows, *A & B leave table pointing and sneering*

No, by Jews he was really despised. *At Z. They shout ‘Boo’*

When he drove 'bout town in his limo *Z gets up and simulates driving*

They threw glances - and much more besides! *A & B throw things (soft balls?) at Z*

He kept to himself did Zacchaeus; *Z returns to table and eats*

Zac generally dined all alone,

But changes were just round the corner *Enter Jesus stage left*

When King Jesus came into Zac's zone. *A & B move towards J, but up stage*

Zac had heard a lot about Jesus, *Z sees commotion and gets up.*

And he wanted to see for himself. *He moves behind A & B*

But brutes in the crowd wouldn't let him, *A & B push him away,*

They said "Go home you bloodsucking elf!" *A & B point to Zac’s table (home)*

But our Zac was not to be thwarted, *Z goes off & climbs into pulpit*

Jesus he was determined to see. *Meanwhile Jesus (followed by A&B)*

He ran down ahead of his target, *moves across stage, down steps and*

And he shinned up a sycamore tree. *across front.*

Up there, little Zac could see Jesus, *Jesus mounts steps stage right*

And all at once he stopped in his tracks. *Jesus stops and looks at Zac*

Was he really calling "Zacchaeus"? *Jesus points at Zac*

And he wanted some tea back at Zac's! *then points to his table (home)*

Zac leaped down from the tree like a cheetah, *Zac rushes down from pulpit*

And raced back home to warm up the pot. *Lays table, gets chair for Jesus, etc*

He got out his very best tea-set:

Silver knives and bone china, the lot. *Jesus sits down*

The crowd in the street, they weren't happy *A & B having followed Jesus down from*

With Jesus the guest of a 'sinner'. *stage, have now remounted and are*

"Taking tea and cakes with Zacchaeus, *stage right. Point and sneer at Zac*

Let's hope he won't stay on for dinner."

But now that he'd met up with Jesus *Zac leaps up from table.*

A big change could be seen in our Zac. *A is now playing part of ‘poor’ holding*

"I'll give to the poor half my money; *begging bowl centre stage.*

Those I've cheated, I'll pay them all back." *B is one of ‘cheated’. (Looks angry)*

"No, in fact I think I'll go further",

Said the now changed and generous Zac.

"I'll repay them four times their money", *Zac gives half of money to poor (A)*

And he reached for the coins in his stack. *The rest he gives to cheated (B)*

'Twasn't small change that Zac distributed,

Once he'd repented to God of his sin. *Once Zac has finished distributing he*

No, the change in Zac was much bigger - *stands centre stage. Jesus gets up to*

That's what happens when God enters in. *stand alongside*

And what can we learn from Zacchaeus;

Short in inches but not short in sin? *Z looks up to J, then down in shame*

He shows we can walk tall with Jesus, *A & B provide step for Z to stand on*

But he'll need to make changes within.