

The Unlikely Temptations of Christ

by

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BLACK SCREEN

SUPER: " THE JUDAEAN DESERT."

FADE IN:

EXT. JUDAEAN DESERT - DAY

Jesus struggles across the burning desert. He's disheveled and exhausted; looks like he hasn't had a bath in forty days and forty nights.

He's approached by a MIDGET, looks in his forties give or take, dressed in a really bad dollar store goat costume.

MIDGET

Whatcha doing?

Jesus ignores him.

MIDGET (CONT'D)

Are you still on that forty days, forty nights thing?... where you can't be tempted by anything.

Jesus turns and faces the midget.

JESUS

That's right, Satan.

MIDGET

Satan! I'm not Satan, I'm just a little man in poorly designed goat costume.

JESUS

You don't fool me, Satan now begone.

The midget stops and rubs his chin, as Jesus saunters.

MIDGET

(to himself)

I'll give him temptations he'll never resist.

He merrily hops and skips up to Jesus.

MIDGET (CONT'D)

Yoohoo Jesus, son of God. Hey wait up.

The Midget jumps in front of Jesus, stopping him in his tracks.

JESUS

What do you want, Satan?

MIDGET

What do you think of this?

The midget pulls his hand from behind his back and reveals... a big shiny red button, with the words "Push Me" written on top.

MIDGET (CONT'D)

You wanna... push the button, Jesus.

Jesus stares at the shiny red button, slowly raising his index finger towards it, until it rests on top.

MIDGET (CONT'D)

That's it Jesus... just push.

JESUS

Tell me Satan, what does it do?

MIDGET

Just push and you'll find out.

Jesus pulls back his finger.

JESUS

No. I will not do your bidding.

MIDGET

Wow, it's just a little button.

The midget pushes the button.

MIDGET (CONT'D)

See... it does nothing.

A car horn can be heard in the distance.

MIDGET (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, it was my panic alarm.

JESUS

Leave me be.

Jesus turns away.

MIDGET

Looks like you're a lot tougher than I thought.

(to himself)

Gotta step this up.

The midget digs deep in his pockets and pulls out an iPhone. He holds it high in the air, trying to find a signal. But then alas...

MIDGET (CONT'D)

Ohh three bars. Out here too.

The Midget struts chest to shoulder with Jesus.

MIDGET (CONT'D)

Unbelievable what they post on here.

Jesus glances over, curious.

MIDGET (CONT'D)

Would you like to check *your* status?

JESUS

No. I don't care for that type of thing.

MIDGET

You know, forty days without posting or responding to cute cat pictures... I would wanna know what people are saying about me.

Jesus shakes his head.

JESUS

Say what you will, for I am the son of God.

MIDGET

(still glancing over Facebook)

Ohh. That's not what Mary said and she's got quite a few followers.

JESUS

Really? Figures.  
(catching himself)  
Why am I listening to you? Satan leave, you're not welcome here.

MIDGET

Very well. Have it your way.

Jesus continues walking as the midget turns his back to him and starts laughing... very fake.

MIDGET (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Oh my, that Mary is soooooo funny.  
Wow, where does she get her material from?

Jesus turns around.

JESUS  
What did she say?

The midget turns around.

MIDGET  
What? I'm sorry, are you talking to me?

Suddenly, the midget tries his best De Niro impression.

MIDGET (CONT'D)  
You talkin' to me? You talkin' to me? Well, I'm the only one here.

JESUS  
Are you finished?

MIDGET  
I suppose. So you wanna see what Mary wrote?

JESUS  
Not necessarily... maybe... ok.

MIDGET  
That's the spirit.  
(catches himself)  
Sorry, not the spirit.

The midget hands the phone to Jesus. He takes it and holds it at arms reach.

MIDGET (CONT'D)  
Well you can't read it from there.

Jesus's arm shakes vigorously, as he brings it in closely... He drops to ground, spilling the phone.

MIDGET (CONT'D)  
What the hell? That's a four hundred dollar phone.

JESUS  
(to himself)  
I can't do it, I won't lower myself to your level.

At this point, Jesus is on his knees, eye to eye with the midget.

MIDGET  
Hey, is that some kind of joke. I'm gonna unfriend you.

Jesus stands, wary. He stumbles along growing weaker by the minute.

The midget rubs his hands.

MIDGET (CONT'D)

(to himself)

His mind and body is weak, time to  
pull out the big guns.

The midget jumps up and taps Jesus on the shoulder.

MIDGET (CONT'D)

I have one last thing for you, if  
you overcome it... I will leave.

JESUS

What is it?

MIDGET

Close your eyes.

JESUS

What?

MIDGET

C'mon, close... your... eyes.

JESUS

Very well.

Jesus closes his eyes.

The midget puts his hand behind his back, he pulls it forward to reveal... bubble wrap.

MIDGET

Ok, you can open them.

JESUS

This is your last temptation?

MIDGET

Would you like to pop one?

JESUS

No.

Holding it closely to Jesus' ear... the midget pops them one by one.

MIDGET

Pop, pop, pop, who can resist?

Jesus watches on, curiously, wiping sweat from his brow.

JESUS

It is air, trapped in plastic and it makes a wonderful sound. I must resist.

Jesus covers his ears.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Enough Satan, for it is pure evil that runs through your veins.

MIDGET

(still popping)

There's only two left... are you sure?

Jesus snatches the wrap and places his thumb and index finger between an air bubble... he begins to squeeze.

The midget's face lights up.

MIDGET (CONT'D)

Yes. Yes Jesus, make that sound, for it is a wonderful sound.

Jesus slowly squeezes tighter. The midget licks his lips in excitement. Suddenly, Jesus drops it and falls to his knees.

JESUS

I have no strength. You gave me your word, now leave Satan.

MIDGET

Sure Jesus, you surely are the son of God.

Just as the Midget disappears, the sky opens up and a sea of ANGELS float down towards Christ.

He reaches his hand out, for he has now been saved. The angels completely surround him, then in a moment, disperse.

Jesus, rises with an iPhone in one hand, the shiny red button in the other and a roll of bubble wrap in the pocket of his new clothes.

JESUS

(on his iPhone)

Screw you Mary.

FADE OUT: