

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: