

Double Time

Advent 3 Philippians 4:4-7

Cast: two people waiting at a train station

Props: a bench, reader #2 wears two watches

Production notes: fully memorized, amplified and rehearsed for comedic timing

1: Excuse me. Do you have the time?

2: Always. (*cheerful then dismissive*)

1: Thanks. I appreciate it. (*expectant, no further response, pause*) Uh, I'm sorry. I was hoping you could *tell* me what time it is, exactly.

2: Always. (*dramatically reveals two watches on the same wrist*)

1: (*amused*) Oh! Well, that's clever. I couldn't even remember *one* watch this morning. You always wear two?

2: Always. (*cheerful then dismissive*)

1: Look. I'm trying to catch the train here and I'm just wondering about the time.

2: (*consulting watch*) It's "always" (*beat*) and I'm rejoicing in it. (*happily*)

1: Rejoicing in what?

2: The Lord. Would you like me to say it again? (*beat*) Paul did.

(*awkward silence*) Has your gentleness gone public?

1: (*reluctant to engage*) I'm sorry ...?

2: (*listing*) Rejoice in the Lord always. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

1: Um. I'm really not interested, ok? I'd just like to wait for my train.

2: Just one? (*peering down the tracks*) Is it near?

1: (*mildly annoyed*) I'm hoping so.

2: Near as in "close" or near as in "soon"?

1: (*quickly, growing annoyed*) Does it matter?

2: Oh absolutely! The Lord is both – coming close and coming soon. I'm waiting for both trains. That's why I always wear two watches. (*beat*) Always.

1: (*dismissive*) Right. Speaking of that, I'd really appreciate knowing the time.

2: This watch is set to earthly time – God coming close. This watch is set to heaven's time – God coming soon. Which do you want?

1: I think I just want to get going.

2: Mm. (*patronizing*) Everybody does. That's part of the problem. (*beat*) Which train are you waiting for?

1: (*fully irritable*) The "lord, it better be comin' soon" train.

2: Ah yes. I thought you'd say that. Most people do. (*beat*) Are you worried?

1: Worried about missing it.

2: That's because you're sitting. (*Jumps up on bench, strains to see.*)

1: (*publicly embarrassed*) W-what are you doing?

2: Praying.

1: (*attitude*) I'm worried because I'm sitting and you're praying by standing on a bench.

2: You're not worried because you're sitting. You're worried because you can't *see* from where you're sitting. Sometimes prayer is nothing more than getting a better vantage point, seeing a situation from where God sees it.

1: A-and what exactly do you see from up there?

2: Reasons to be thankful.

1: Like ...?

2: Like, our train is coming.

1: (*straining to see*) You know that for sure?

2: I know nothing for sure but I can feel it.

1: You can feel what – vibration?

2: Well, I guess you could say that. (*sits back down*) I feel peace, the peace of God which exceeds all understanding, all human ways of knowing.

1: I'm not sure I'd be willing to wait that way. I like a schedule. I like (*beat*) my watch.

2: Most people do and that's what *this* watch is for. (*indicates*) The Lord is near. Right here, in this moment, on the way to work, in everyday decisions and activities. Train #1.

1: (*reluctant*) And Train #2?

2: (*delight*) A ha! Watch #2. A simultaneous schedule that runs earlier and longer than the other.

1: Well, until that bus comes I'll be over here on the platform. (*relocates*)

2: A good place to be! The peace of God, the gentle vibrations of "something coming" will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (*suddenly jumps back on the bench*)

1: You praying again ...

2: Nope. (*peering*) Your train is here.