

## A Sketch about Proper Use of Our Talents

**CAST:** KC Spencer, groundskeeper for The Talent Graveyard; Howard Preston; Mitzi Preston

**SETTING:** Talent Graveyard

**PROPS:** trash bag, other maintenance supplies, several tombstones

Sketch opens with KC standing center stage, picking weeds, picking up trash, etc. On the grounds of the Talent Graveyard. Howard And Mitzi (two mourners) enter and approach KC

**Howard:** Excuse me, sir, could you tell me where I could find plot number 473?

**KC:** You're standing on it.

**Howard:** (Reacts) Oh, I'm so sorry. I didn't know.

**KC:** That's all right. He's in no shape to complain.

**Mitzi:** (Checks out tombstone) This is him all right. Such a pity. Struck down in the prime of his talent.

**Howard:** Prime nothing. He never even used it.

**KC:** Well, he's not the first. You wouldn't believe how many perfectly good talents I have to bury each year.

**Howard:** I can imagine. Our friend here could play the guitar like Phil Keaggy, but he only did it in front of a mirror.

**KC:** What a waste, huh?

**Mitzi:** Read his tombstone.

**Howard:** (Reading tombstone) "You're dead and gone, Percy Underwood. You hid all your talents, now they're buried for good."

**Mitzi:** So sad.

**KC:** I see it all the time. Folks getting buried with brand new talents. They never even unwrapped 'em.

**Howard:** Tragic.

**Mitzi:** Why do they do it?

**Howard:** Who knows? Fear of failure, I suppose.

**KC:** Look here. Here's another one. (He takes a few steps to the next tombstone. Reading...) "Here lies Betty Dixon. Oh, how she blew it! Could sing like Sandy Patti, but nobody knew it!" (Grabbing heart) Gets ya right here, don't it?

**Mitzi:** It just doesn't make any sense.

**KC:** A lot of things about my job don't make any sense.

**Howard:** These people could have done so much good with their talents. Instead, their talents never blessed a single person, least of all themselves.

**Mitzi:** Almost sounds like a sin, doesn't it? To be given a gift, then not do something with it?

**KC:** It's ingratitude, that's for sure.

**Mitzi:** (Moving to another tombstone) Listen to this one... (reading) "Rick could act like Bogart. I tell you it's so. But when the drama team asked him, he always said no."

**KC:** Imagine that being your epitaph.

**Howard:** He probably thought he had all the time in the world.

**Mitzi:** Yeah, he figured he'd get around to using his talent someday.

**KC:** But time doesn't wait for anyone's talent.

**Howard:** Doctors should figure out a way to transplant these talents into someone who'll appreciate and use them.

**Mitzi:** Can't be done. Everybody's been given their own special talents. It's like a personality. It's non-transplantable.

**KC:** Personalities aren't transplantable?

**Howard:** 'Fraid not.

**KC:** (Almost to himself) I knew that doctor was a quack!

**Mitzi:** Well, all I know is I'm not going to be buried with any unused talents.

**Howard:** Me either! Whatever gifts I've been given, I'm going to start putting them to use.

**KC:** That's what I like to hear! That's why God give 'em to us in the first place. They're not souvenirs for us to just carry around through this life.

**Howard:** Yeah, we're supposed to be using them.

**Mitzi:** And if God gave them to us, we don't have to worry about failing.

**KC:** Oh, you might fail at first, but that doesn't mean the talent's no good. It just means it's in its baby stage. When God gives life, He doesn't start us as a 30-year-old. We start as babies. We learn to walk, then run, and the next thing we know we're full grown adults. It's the same with our talents. When we first start using them, they are nowhere near their potential. But if we keep working, taking those steps everyday to improve and make the most of our gifts, before we know it, our talents will be full grown, too!

**Howard:** I'm glad we came down here today.

**Mitzi:** Me, too.

**Howard:** (To KC) Thanks.

**KC:** For what?

**Howard:** For reminding us of the importance of using our talents before it's too late.

**KC:** Well, like I said, we don't need any more perfectly good talents being buried here. (He goes back to cleaning up the graveyard)

**Mitzi:** So, what talent do you think you've been blessed with, Howard? C'mon, tell me. I promise I won't laugh.

**Howard:** No, you've got to promise that you will. I think I've got the gift of comedy.

**Mitzi:** Comedy? Well, the world sure needs a lot more of that.

**Howard:** What gift do you think you have?

**Mitzi:** I'd say the gift of encouragement.

**Howard:** Wow! That's a rare one.

**Mitzi:** Not really. Lots of folks have it. They just don't use it.

**Howard:** Well, they should. We all need more encouragement. In fact, the world needs all our talents.

**Mitzi:** To be used, not buried.

**Howard:** Exactly. (as they start to exit)...Did I ever tell you I also do a little Elvis impersonation?

**Mitzi:** Well, maybe there are some talents that should stay buried.

**Howard:** What d'ya mean? Listen to this...(in Elvis voice and mannerisms) "Thank you, thank you very much."

**Mitzi:** Okay, so maybe that is a talent and God wants us to use all our talents for him. But just promise me one thing, will ya?

**Howard:** What's that?

**Mitzi:** Don't start wearing the cape to church.

**Howard:** I promise. (as they exit)...But now, to Sunday School? That's a different story.