

Cooperation is the Name of the Game

by Owen Robertson

(A homeless man is standing center stage. He is dressed stereotypically and is holding a "Will Work For Food" sign. And he doesn't smell very good. Man 1 enters with a coat and a blanket.)

Man 1: Excuse me, sir? Hello. *(shaking his hand)* It's nice to meet you. My pastor told me that it was my Christian duty to help those in need: since the weather's getting colder, I thought I'd bring you a coat and a blanket to keep you warm. Here, why don't you try it on. *(Homeless is reluctant.)* It's alright. Here, I'll hold your sign for you. Go ahead.

(Homeless starts to put the coat on. Woman 1 enters.)

Woman 1: *(to man 1)* Well, bless your heart. *(She cries)* You poor man. Having to stand out in the cold and beg for something to eat. Here, I brought you a blanket to keep you warm.

Man 1: But I'm not

(Woman 2 enters.)

Woman 2: Sir, are you a homeless person??

Man 1: No.

Woman 1: I thought you were.

Woman 2: Your sign says that you need food.

Man 1: This is not my sign; it's his.

Woman 1: Well, of all the nerve. You sure have a lot of gall trying to get free handouts by impersonating someone who is needy.

Woman 2: I can't believe it. It's freeloaders like you that give homeless people a bad name. Honest folks who want to help are afraid to because people like you are always trying to take advantage of us. And to think that I almost gave you my blanket.

Man 1: Wait a minute. Hold on. I'm not trying to impersonate anybody. I brought this gentleman a coat to keep him warm. I'm just looking after his things while he puts it on.

Woman 1: My goodness.

Woman 2: Well how thoughtful.

Woman 1: It certainly is, isn't it.

Man 2: (entering) Has anyone seen any homeless people around here. They're usually crawling all over the place. Now when you want one, they disappear.

Woman 1: This gentleman is homeless. (*indicating homeless*)

Man 2: Here you go, sir. (*handing him a blanket*) Hope you can keep warm this winter.

Woman 2: I brought you a blanket too.

Woman 1: So did I. God bless you, sir.

(*If you'd like, others can enter at this point with more blankets.*)

Man 1: Hold on. He doesn't need all these blankets. Do you?? (*Homeless shrugs.*) I mean, you need other things like food and clothes more than you need an overabundance of blankets, don't you??! (*Homeless nods.*)

Woman 2: Well, my pastor said it was my civic duty to help those in need. I thought a warm blanket would be nice.

Woman 1: Me too. And I found a wonderful sale at Wal-mart. I just wanted to help.

Man 2: Then what are you suggesting?

Man 1: We need to be better organized. This man has a lot of needs. If we all work together, we could really help him out. What do you say?

Woman 1: You want us to cooperate with each other.

Man 1: What do you think?? (*All agree.*)

Man 2: How about you, sir? (*Homeless agrees.*)

(*They all cheer and start to exit together.*)

Man 1: Just a minute. (*He takes homeless's sign.*) You won't be needing this anymore. (*He throws the sign over his shoulder and they exit.*)

END