

**A CHANGE OF HEART**  
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**Purpose:**

We become so caught up in what we're doing, whether good or bad, our view becomes skewed. It's easy to become more focused on traditions than true meanings behind them. Which can lead to being disillusioned about everything. This sketch draws our attention back to the basics.

**Characters:**

**Jay** -- a young man away at college, working on his thesis before graduation. He is deep disappointed with what the world now calls X-mas. Distant from values learned at home, he now doubts their validity.

**Mother** -- A Christian woman, very much into family and tradition. She frets over her inability to make things work out like she feels they should.

**Father** -- A devout Christian, strong in faith. He trusts God to save his son.

**Children 1-3** -- Children, innocently playing outside Jay's window. They repeat a lot of things they've heard others say. They laugh and joke, unaware their words affect others.

**Props:**

The stage is split. One side is a study room in an apartment. It needs to have a window, through which children's voices can be heard. Make it so the children can also be seen. The other side of the stage is the dining/living room of the mother and father, decorated for Christmas. The main prop is a pen and letter. Other props as appropriate to the settings.

*Lit scene opens with Jay at desk beside window, writing. His mother, on darkened half of stage, sits at table with father, letter in hand.*

**Jay:** Just a quick note to let you know all is well. I'm healthy and my money's holding out. Send cookies with your love next time. I'm behind on my thesis. I also scheduled a lot of lab time, since almost everyone will be gone. I'm trying to tell you, I guess I won't... *(The mother's voice phases in as son's voice phases out. The lighting balance shifts to the other side of the stage)*

**Jay and Mother:**

... be coming home for Christmas. You've always told me to prioritize my time. Figure I'll take advantage now of the lab now and visit later. Once the holidays are over. The magic's gone from them anyway. There is no place for Christ in X-mas. I watched some kids at the mall yesterday. Their greed was so depressing. I suppose all kids are like that, but... *(Mother is speaking all alone now)*

**Mother:** ... even the adults were pushing and shoving. Anyway, I guess the real meaning of Christmas is extra time to study. Give my regards to everyone and apologize if anyone's upset. I love you all. Just don't have time to come home now. Pray I survive my studies. I'll pray you survive "the joy of the season". Till next time, Love, Your Son. *(Mother slowly shakes her head, as she puts the letter down on the table)*

**Mother:** This will be the first time we've not been together for Christmas.

**Father:** It's his decision, Honey. "Where your treasures are, there will your heart be also". We can't make him love family, traditions, or even salvation. Only God can. *(Lights begin to fade as the other side lights up)* Only God can turn his heart toward home.

*(Jay at desk with books. Children play outside, noisily enacting nativity scene)*

**Child 1:** Here's the part I like. Where the three nice men from the East...

**Jay:** *(Looks up to mutters).* Three WISE men.

**Child 1:** Brought really expensive stuff to the kid.

**Jay:** *(Looks up, horrified)* No! They brought symbolic gifts, not just expensive.

**Child 2:** Well, I like the animals, and the donkey. Those were the cool gifts.

**Jay:** *(Shakes his head)* Those weren't gifts

**Child 1:** Yeah, I hope I get a horse for Christmas. That would sure top Leslie's kitten.

**Jay:** The animals weren't gifts. They too came to worship Jesus.

**Child 3:** The shepherds probably came cause they heard sheep were being given away. What a deal. Can't be bleat, eh?

**Child 2:** Not baaaaad *(Laughter)*

**Jay:** They came because his birth child represented hope for a better life. For them and their families.

**Child 3:** Well, I can't believe Joseph! Took a new wife with him and expected her to stay in a dump barn. If my husband ever did that, I'd lose him.

**Child 1:** They were probably just glad to be together.

**Jay:** You tell her, Kid!

**Child 2:** Well, I'm glad the nice men brought money. That's the most important thing about Christmas. Being together is good. Money's better.

**Jay:** *(Closes book and looks intently at hands. Light shifts over to table side. Parents pray)*

**Mother:** Lord. Thank you for your blessings to us. For the home you gave us, the food on our table, all the clothes and material comforts. But more than that. Thank you for hope. For you brought hope with you when you came. A better world and a chance to someday live together with you. For all of this, we thank you Lord. *(Jay has approached and stands outside the door) ... and though some are away from us today. (Her voice breaks here, so Jay opens door and softly continues. Parents' heads come up)*

**Jay:** ... They too realize things can't fill us. Nor can a career satisfy. The emptiness in our lives. That you came to fill. For the meaning you bring to our lives. For the hope you bring. From our family, for our family, we thank you. Amen

*(Light fades as Jay's parents embrace him)*

