Announcer:
(enters, speaks in a loud clear voice)

Now would be a good time to listen up because you are about to hear the story of Everyman. And I mean EVERY MAN (and woman, for that matter). Watch and see how temporary, how fleeting your life is, and how truly precious are your days on earth. Watch and learn how bad behavior turns from sweetness to sorrow as it smother the soul. See how earthly friendships and delights fade away when the end draws near. Pay attention! Here’s how God, our Heavenly Father, summons Everyman to his final judgment.
(exits)

God:
(enters from one side of stage, sorrowful)

So sad. Mankind is drowning in sin, living only for worldly riches, blind to spiritual vision. They have forgotten Me, their God. They’ve forgotten the teachers and philosophers I sent them. My sages and saints are ignored. The Savior and his prophets died for them and still they forsake Me. Mankind embraces The Seven Deadly Sins with a zeal never shown in worship. I offer them mercy in life but most disregard all but worldly pleasure until it is too late. Every year, the world grows worse. Some, I admit, try... but is it enough? Only a few understand that each one of them is called to the seat of judgment where I must reckon with each one fairly.
(louder)
Death, my faithful messenger! Where are you?

Death:
(enters, approaches God, speaks stridently)

Almighty God! I am here to fulfill Your command!

God:
(weary)

Death, find Everyman. Tell him, in My Name, of the journey he must take. He must prepare for his last reckoning without delay.

Death:
(at attention)

Lord, once again I will travel the world for You, gathering both the great and the small. No one escapes my fingers!

Everyman:
(enters, opposite side of stage)

Death:
(pointing with outrage)

Look! There walks Everyman. His mind is filled with schemes of lust and gold. Little does he suspect my coming!

God:
(calms death down)

Go but summon him with the respect Everyman deserves.(exits)
**Death:**
*(goes to Everyman)*

Everyman! Stop! Why is your head filled with dreams of pleasure? Have you forgotten your God?

**Everyman:**
*(surprised)*

Forgotten—who?

**Death:**

I have been sent to you by Our Majesty, the Lord God! Although you do not remember Him, He thinks of you from His heavenly sphere.

**Everyman:**
*(confused)*

Really? What does He want with me?

**Death:**

It is time to give cash in your chips! The record of your life, the many bad deeds... and the few good ones, will be displayed before the Great Lord of Paradise. Prepare, Everyman, for the journey from which no one returns!

**Everyman:**
*(panicked)*

What? I'm not up for this! Wait! Who did you say you were?

**Death:**

I am Death, God's humble servant which no man should fear.

**Everyman:**
*(frightened)*

Death! I didn’t expect you to come so soon.

**Death:**

No one expects death.

**Everyman:**
*(thinking quickly)*

You have the power to spare me. I will give you half my property if you wait till another day.

**Death:**

How many times have I heard that before? A lot. The answer is NO! What do I care for wealth. If I accepted the gifts offered to me, I would own the whole world! Be you king or beggar, the answer would be the same. No. Come, no more dilly-dallying.
Everyman:
(begs)

Please, may I have more time to prepare? You did come without warning! Another dozen years and I could balance out all my foolish deeds with good ones. Death, I beg you, for God’s sake, please?

Death:

Weeping and praying won’t help you now. NO! Hurry up. Your journey starts.

Everyman:

Death, if I go with you and make my peace with God, may I then return here?

Death:

No, Everyman! Once you die, you never return!

Everyman:

Oh gracious God, must I take this trip alone?

Death:

If you can find any companions hardy enough, they can go with you. Everyman, you do not seem to understand. Do you think your life and your wealth belong to you?

Everyman:
(sheepish)

Maybe I did. (pause) All right! Yes, I thought it all belonged to me.

Death:

That’s pretty foolish. What you possess is just on loan to you. Soon another will have what you had and later I will take him as well.

Everyman:
(begs even more)

Is there no escape from this tragedy? Gentle Death, please give me until tomorrow to get advice on how to get my life in order and fix my flaws.

Death:

NO! (feels pity for a moment) I cannot, even though at times I wish I could. Go! Prepare! This is the day in which no living person can escape!(exits)

Everyman:
(goes to center stage)

I feel like crying! I’m all alone, my life is a mess and I have no excuse. I wish to God I had never been born! What terrors await me on the other side? I need a friend to go with me. Here comes my friend, Fellowship. He will ease my sorrow.
Fellowship:
(enters)

Everyman:

Hello, dear Fellowship.

Fellowship:
(cheerful, goes to Everyman)

Good day to you, Everyman. You look upset. Can I help?

Everyman:
(relieved)

Oh, yes! I am in great jeopardy.

Fellowship:
(brags)

Tell me. I will stand by you for as long as I live. If anyone has wronged you, you shall be revenged. I would give my life for you; I would walk into Hell itself! Tell me what's wrong.

Everyman:

You are such a true friend.

Fellowship:

He who promises friendship but fails to prove it is not worthy of having a friend. Show me your grief.

Everyman:

Death himself visited me and told me I had to go before our Lord God and give a strict accounting of my life. Can you come with me. I wouldn't be so afraid if I had Fellowship.

Fellowship:
(concerned)

That is some problem you have there! A promise is a duty but what would happen to me on such a voyage? Your words scare me!

Everyman:

But you said you would stand by me, dead or alive, even into the pits of Hell.

Fellowship:
(worried)

Did I? Honestly, I never really believed a journey like that was possible. When would we return from this trek?

Everyman:

Not until Armageddon.
Fellowship:
(aghast)

Death told you this? I wouldn't go on such a loathsome trip for my own father!

Everyman:

But you promised!

Fellowship:
(backing away from Everyman)

So what? To eat and drink and chase lusty women, yes. To help you murder a foe, sure! But friendship or no friendship, I will not die with you.

Everyman:

Then, I pray, at least accompany me part of the way.

Fellowship:

That sounds like a trick to me. No! Not one step. Even if you were to pay all the bills. No! Well, go with God. I must leave. See ya. Wouldn’t want to be ya.

Everyman:

Oh, Fellowship, are you forsaking me?

Fellowship:

Yes I am, but take comfort; I will grieve for you... in my own way.

(hurriedly exits)

Everyman:

Farewell, bad Fellowship. I will never see you again. Deserted in my time of greatest need! Who can I turn to now? Of course! My family! Blood is thicker than Fellowship's wine. Where are you, Kindred and Cousin?

Kindred & Cousin:
(enter, go to Everyman)

Kindred:

We heard you calling.

Cousin:

We're here to stand by you. Family must stick together through thick and thin.

Kindred:
(puts arm around Everyman)

In poverty and sickness, we are here to help. You ain't never had a friend like me.
Everyman:
(hesitates)

Death spoke to me. I must make a perilous pilgrimage to God Himself and tell Him of all the evil deeds I have done and the good ones I refused to do. Please come with me as I make my accounting.

Cousin:
(horrified)

What? Go with you before God? What if he starts asking me questions? Why, I'd rather live off bread and water for the next five years!

Kindred:
(smiling an obvious fake smile)

Cheer up, Everyman. You stand a reasonably good chance! You've led a—a fairly good life.

(takes arm away)

But if you're counting on me to offer testimony before God, you'll travel alone.

Cousin:
(faking an injury)

Ow! I have a cramp in my foot! I can't travel with a cramp in my foot!

(hops around)

Kindred:
(thinking of any way out)

I could ask my maid if she would like to accompany you. She's always been fond of you after that Christmas gift you gave her. Uh, but I doubt she liked it THAT much.

Everyman:

For the last time, will you go with me or stay behind?

Kindred:

Haven't we been clear enough? Stay behind. See you later... wait! Probably not.

(backs away, exits)

Cousin:

Good-bye, Cousin Everyman. You know, I'd better check on my accounts before Death knocks on my door!

(limps away, exiting)

This darn cramp. I always get them at the worst time.

Everyman:
(sadly)
Promises made and shattered before my eyes. Lame excuses. But would I have behaved differently if I were them? No. All my life I loved only riches.

(smiles)

If my possessions lightened my load in life, maybe they can aid me in death! My Worldly Goods, where are you?

Worldly Goods:
(pushed onto stage)


Everyman:

I have a different problem. Can you buy me forgiveness? I need you beside me when I face God to help me clean and purify my immortal scorecard.

Worldly Goods:
(chuckles)

I can help you in the material world but when you talk about spiritual stuff, I’m no help. To have me with you would only hurt your case. See, Your love of me is contrary to the law of love. Had you loved me less and given more of me to the poor, then I could have helped you more in the spiritual realm.

Everyman:

Oh, Worldly Goods, I trusted you. I gave you all my love!

Worldly Goods:
(laughs)

Trusted me? That was dumb, Everyman. For each person I save, a thousand others fall into my trap! I cannot love you anymore than the wind or the rocks could love you.

Everyman:
(angry)

Death was right. You are but lent to me for a short time. Curse you, you traitor. The feelings I heaped upon you, I should have given to Him!

Worldly Goods:
(smiles wisely)

You finally understand my true importance and, for that, be glad. That knowledge might help you before God. Now I must go to be inherited by another master.

(pulled off stage)

Everyman:

Fellowship and family made pretty speeches but ran away when I needed them the most. My love of Worldly Goods turned out to be a road to perdition not paradise. Who will counsel me now? Maybe my Good Deeds.

Good Deeds:
(pushed onto stage, lying on the ground, moaning and holding his/her stomach)
Everyman:

There she is now! But she looks dead.

Good Deeds:

(weakly)

I’m not dead—yet, but your many sins crush down upon me and make me ill.

Everyman:

(puzzled)

I see nothing crushing you.

Good Deeds:

(helpless)

Your sins are invisible to mortal eyes. If you could truly behold them, their ugliness and amount would horrify you beyond any nightmare.

Everyman:

My poor Good Deeds, let me tell you of my plight.

Good Deeds:

Tell someone who cares. I already know. If you had fed me, tended to me in any way, I could go with you. Your accounts would have been ready before Lord God. But I am too weak to move, much less go on a long journey beside you.

Everyman:

(grieved)

Then I am damned! Please, Good Deeds, is there anything I can do?

Good Deeds:

Call upon my friend Knowledge. He may help you with your dire reckoning.

Knowledge:

(calmy enters)

Everyman, I am here to guide you through these perilous times.

Everyman:

Oh, thank you! I have not been abandoned after all. God is merciful.

Knowledge:

You never were alone. You sought help from those who could not give it.

Everyman:

Tell me, Knowledge, what should I do?
Knowledge:

(sensibly)

First we must seek Confession to cleanse you of your sins. He is in good favor with Almighty God. Confession!

Confession:

(enters)

I am always near. No need to yell.

Knowledge:

Everyman meet Confession. He is righteous and holy. Kneel and pray for mercy.

Everyman:

(prays)

Forgive me, my Heavenly Savior. I let daily desires push You from my mind until You were a dim memory. I prayed to You only in times of trouble. I paid attention to Your teachings only when I thought it might help my standing in the community. The rest of the time, I ignored you, thinking the universe revolved around me. I was wrong. I am nothing but an insignificant speck. Why wasn't I more charitable? More loving? I have disappointed both Almighty God and myself. The blame is all mine. Now I kneel before You, begging for Your mercy. I don't think I'm worthy of receiving it. I offer You my a changed heart. Save me, God. Please save me!

Confession:

(serenely)

I know your sorrow well, Everyman. It is the shame all men should feel. Because you came to me with Knowledge and confessed the guilt for your sins, I will help guide you into the light. Knowledge, sustain him on this voyage and help him reunite with his Good Deeds. Hurry up because Everyman's time is short.

(exits)

Everyman:

(clutches stomach,, moans & cries)

My body. I feel so sick. I feel so much pain.

Knowledge:

(trying to calm the suffering Everyman)

Your body, mind and soul are suffering the as sin is purged from you. It hurts, but better a little agony now than torment for all eternity. The pain will pass soon.

(looks up)

Merciful God, cleanse Everyman's flesh, brain and spirit so he may be reborn in Your eyes

Good Deeds:

(arises, joins the others)

I am feeling much better. In fact, I think I'll go for a walk.

(touches Everyman)
Everyman:
(suddenly not in pain anymore)

The pain is gone.

Good Deeds:
(gently)

Your repentance has healed me. I can now go with you before the Lord and declare your good works.

Everyman:

I am absolved?

Knowledge:

Yes. You should be overjoyed.

Everyman:
(stands, joyous)

My fear of Death is gone! We must leave this mortal plane now. I will miss it, but my future lies elsewhere.

Good Deeds:

Three more must go with us, to guide you on your way.

Everyman:

Who? Who have I forgotten?

Good Deeds:

Discretion, Strength and Beauty. They must not be left behind, yet.

Knowledge:

Nor must you forget your Five Wits, for they are your counselors. Call for them. They will come.

Everyman:

(shouts)

Discretion! Strength! Beauty! My Five Wits! Come! Be here with me.

Discretion, Strength, Beauty & Five Wits:
(enter in the order they are called, go to Everyman)

Beauty:

We are here. What would you like us to do?

Good Deeds:

Go with Everyman on his last pilgrimage.

Strength:
(bravely)
I will stand by you, even in battle.

**Five Wits:**

Be it good or bad, I’ll be with you, even if we travel the entire world.

**Beauty:**

No matter what befalls you, I shall not leave you until Death’s door.

**Discretion:**

I will counsel you, giving you the finest advice. Everything will be just fine.

**Everyman:**

Listen, my friends. I must now go before God and give my testimony. To the poor, I give half my worldly goods. The rest shall be returned to whoever it rightfully belongs.

**Discretion:**

*(pondering the problem)*

Good thinking. I advise you to find a holy person to give you Last Rites.

**Five Wits:**

Seek out a minister of the church. Even in these final moments, there is still time. Go!

**Everyman:**

*(quickly exits.)*

**Knowledge:**

*(worried)*

I hope Everyman finds a priest who is worthy of the Gospel. Many who speak the Word of God are corrupt. May Everyman be spared the disappointment of receiving Last Rites from a phony.

**Five Wits:**

Have more faith. I trust that God will direct Everyman to a worthy priest. Not all who speak the word of God have fallen so low.

**Good Deeds:**

Look! Everyman returns.

**Everyman:**

*(enters, refreshed)*

It is done. The holy words and rites have made me whole again. Thank you for waiting, my friends. My final journey is at hand.

**Strength:**

None of us will leave you until the end of this voyage.
Discretion:

We will see you through it.

Everyman, Good Deeds, Knowledge, Discretion, Strength, Beauty & Five Wits:
(approach the open grave)

Everyman:
(stumbling)

Oh Lord, I am getting so tired; I cannot stand. My legs are folding under me. Come Beauty, let’s lie down a moment and rest.

Beauty:
(suddenly afraid)

You want a beauty rest in the damp, dark grave? What will become of me?

Knowledge:

Like the rest of his corpse, you too shall decompose. But fear not. True beauty dwells forever in the House of God.

Beauty:
(backs away from grave)

The beauty you talk of is an inner beauty that Everyman now possesses. I am the physical beauty of this earth. No corpse is beautiful.

Everyman:

But beauty, you said you--

Beauty:
(interrupts)

No! I am deaf to your protests. My job here is over!

(apruptly exits)

Everyman:
(sad)

Beauty runs fast.

Strength:

As so must I. My strength is also of this world. Like Beauty, I fade with age and time.

(looks into grave)

Death is a game I cannot win, a competitor I cannot defeat.

(shakes Everyman’s hand)

Farewell, Everyman.
Everyman:  
(surprised)

You are breaking your word?

Strength:  

Stop whining! Show some backbone, man!

(uncomfortable)

Go jump in your grave; get it over with.

(exits)

Everyman:  

I thought strength and beauty would be more dependable. I relied upon them and they have left me.

Discretion:  

(hesitantly)

I’m sorry to say that when strength goes, so must I... although I do try to hang on a little longer.

Everyman:  

You, too, Discretion?

Discretion:  

That’s how it must be.

Everyman:  

Please, look into my grave at least once and pity me.

Discretion:  

(grumpy)

No. Believe me, I will not come even that close. Farewell to the rest of you, too. (speaking to Five Wits).

(exits)

Everyman:  

(upset)

All things fail me except God and my senses. When Death blows his mighty blast, they all run from me.

Five Wits:  

(reluctantly)

As so shall I.

Everyman:  

(weeping)

No! I thought you were my best friend.
Five Wits:

You do not want Five Wits with you in the grave. That would be another form of Hell. To feel worms devouring your skin? To smell and taste your carcass decomposing? No. you don’t need me where you are going.

(warmly pats Everyman on the back)

I fade away towards the end... it is better this way, Everyman.

(slowly exits)

Everyman:

(stunned, worn down)

All have forsaken me.

Good Deeds:

Not I. I am always with you.

Everyman:

That’s comforting. And you, Knowledge? Will you take off, too?

Knowledge:

(honestly)

Yes, Everyman, the moment you die. But not a second before, no matter what the danger. I will not leave until I see and know where you are going.

Everyman:

Thank you for that, Knowledge. My time approaches. Only my Good Deeds remain faithfully by my side.

Good Deeds:

(takes Everyman’s hand)

All earthly things are just vanity. Your body will diminish into nothingness. Foolish friends and kinsmen who flatter you will always run away. They will face death soon, too. The only thing that is eternal is your soul and the good you’ve done in your life.

Everyman:

I am still afraid.

Good Deeds:

Don’t be. I will speak for you.

Everyman:

I am as prepared as any man can be. It is time to enter God’s realm. I give Him back my soul, placing my spirit into His loving, merciful hands. Now, I die.

Everyman & Good Deeds:

(enter the grave, exit)
Everyman has suffered what all must endure. But his Good Deeds will make everything secure. His suffering is over.

Is that an angel I hear? Yes! Everyman has been saved. Now I must go. Before I too fade away, maybe some of Everyman's Knowledge can help others prepare for their Day of Judgment?

Come, Everyman. Because you asked for forgiveness, to Heaven you shall go. Your soul has been taken from your body and judgment shows it to be crystal clear. And your handsome friend, Good Deeds, shall shine before you and light your way. Welcome to God's Mansion.

People, keep this in mind: Pride will deceive you in the end. Beauty, Strength, Discretion and your Five Wits are good gifts, but they cannot follow you to the grave. Only your Good Deeds can. But beware! If your Good Deeds are weak and starved, they cannot help you at all. There is no making amends after you are dead. But he who has a whole and solid account has nothing to fear, for God has already prepared a room for him in His Mansion.

Thus ends this morality play of Everyman. Amen.

The End