

the grave marker. It is his grave.

SCROOGE: (*horrified*) It... it is my name! Oh, no, Spirit, no! Hear me! I am not the man I was! I will not be the man I must have been before this visitation! Why show me this if I am past all hope? Your nature intercedes for me and pities me. Say I may change these things, by an altered life! I will honor these lessons in my heart and try to keep them all the year. I'll live in the Past, Present, and the Future... the spirits of all three will strive within me! I will NOT shut out the lessons that they teach! Oh, tell me... tell me that I may sponge away the writing on this stone! I beg you, Spirit! Spare me! Spare me...

Wind and music transition to...

Scene 11: Scrooge's Bedroom

SCROOGE continues to weep. He lifts his head and sees he is in his bedroom.

SCROOGE: (*continued*) Spare me... oh... I promise, I have learned... I beg you... (*Beat. Opened his eyes. Realizes he is home*) My own room...? (*a beat*) I'm alive! Oh! Oh, thank you, spirits! I will keep my promise! I will live in the Past, Present, and Future. The spirits of all three will strive within me! I say this on my knees, Jacob Marley! On my knees!

Lights fade. Church bell rings.

It is 9:00am the following morning.

SCROOGE: (*laughing*) Clash! Clang! Clammer! Ding dong! The loveliest peals I have heard!

SCROOGE: (*continued*) Heavenly sky, sweet fresh air, merry bells! Oh, glorious! Glorious! (*suddenly concerned*) Ah, but which morning? (*to a BOY*) You there! Boy! What's today?

BOY: (*from below, confused*) What, sir?

SCROOGE: What day is it today, my fine fellow?

BOY: Today? Why, it's Christmas Day!

SCROOGE: (*happy, to himself*) It's Christmas Day! I haven't missed it. The Spirits have done it all in one night. They can do anything they like. Of course they can! (*to the BOY*) Hallo, my fine fellow!

BOY: Hallo!

SCROOGE: Merry Christmas to you, too, my lad! (*laughs*) Never have I felt this way – I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy. I am as giddy as a drunken man! Merry Christmas to everybody, and a happy New Year to the world!!