

**Eighteen: As You Did for Me**

**Scripture: Matthew 25:40**

*The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’*

**Cast**

- **Talia**—A Jewish teenager fulfilling a civic class requirement at the local food pantry. Initially resentful about volunteering early on Saturdays, she masks her discomfort with sarcasm. Over time, she opens up about being the target of peer cruelty and discovers that, despite religious differences, she shares much in common with Samir and Shahid.
- **Samir**—A quiet, observant Arab-American teen whose family emigrated from the Middle East. He carries the weight of his father’s strict, orthodox Sunni views, which warn against trust outside the community. Though shy at first, Samir’s empathy emerges as he finds shared experience and cautious friendship with Talia and Shahid.
- **Shahid**—Samir’s close friend, born to a Shi’a family that has assimilated more into American culture. Though observant on holy days, Shahid’s family avoids religious debate. He’s steady and open-minded, serving as a bridge between Samir’s conservatism and Talia’s skepticism.
- **Mr. Greene**—The director of the food pantry. A practical, kindly Pentecostal Christian who values helping others over preaching at them. He guides the teens toward empathy and understanding, modeling a faith that prioritizes service over judgment.
- **Rosa**—An elderly, frequent pantry client. Rosa is condescending, opinionated, and prone to inventing Bible verses to justify her prejudices. She represents the challenge of loving those who make it hardest.

**Synopsis**

*As You Did for Me* follows three teens as they complete their required volunteer hours at a neighborhood food pantry. Talia resents the early mornings; Samir and Shahid try to keep their heads down. Confronted with antagonistic patrons like Rosa—who weaponized scripture to insult them—they learn hard lessons about prejudice, faith, and humility. With Mr. Greene’s quiet guidance, the teens navigate their own family pressures, question their assumptions, and discover the common humanity that transcends belief. By the end, they commit to return—not just for credit, but for what they’ve learned about compassion.

**Scene 1: How Long Have Those Beets Been on the Shelf?**

Mr. Greene welcomes the teens to their first shift, outlining their responsibilities and discussing the origins of their names. This sparks a candid conversation about heritage, Islamophobia, and antisemitism. Though polite, the teens’ guarded answers reveal generational fears. Mr. Greene encourages them to see their service as a chance to build understanding. He warns them about Rosa, a patron known for her confrontational and self-righteous “scripture quotes.”

**Scene 2: The Following Saturday**

Talia struggles with packing boxes while Samir and Shahid help carry them out. Rosa arrives, criticizing Talia’s clothing with invented biblical admonitions, then questions the boys’ Americanness and faith. Conflating their Muslim identity with terrorism, she quotes imaginary scripture to justify her bias. The encounter rattles the teens, leading them to ask Mr. Greene about boundaries and how to respond to hate cloaked in religious language.

**Scene 3: The Third Saturday**

Arriving early, Samir and Shahid share their parents’ warnings about befriending outsiders, rooted in memories of sectarian violence and prejudice. Talia joins, venting about her own father’s antisemitic tangents. The teens

compare their families’ fears and see their shared struggle. Rosa arrives with a giant box, insisting on invented biblical justifications. Mr. Greene defuses her calmly while privately acknowledging to the teens that her authority is all fiction, sparking a frank discussion about hypocrisy in religious language.

**Scene 4:** The Fourth Saturday and Still Plenty of Canned Beets

Taking a break after a busy morning, the teens discuss the idea of faith in their own traditions. Mr. Greene shares his Pentecostal approach and asks them to consider ethnocentrism—how fear of difference feeds prejudice. The teens reflect on the overlap in their values, like charity and care for neighbors, realizing these ideals often get lost behind cultural walls. Samir recites Qur’an 4:36 to highlight how his faith, too, calls for broad compassion.

**Scene 5:** No More Beets, No More Stale Bread, Let’s Love One Another Instead

On their final Saturday, the group winds down together, reflecting on the hardest moments. Talia jokes about Rosa’s worst “scripture,” while Shahid recounts a bullying incident at school. They discuss what they learned: that serving the needy isn’t about being thanked, but about recognizing shared humanity even when it’s uncomfortable. Mr. Greene commends them for doing the actual work—showing up, listening, and staying open. The play closes with a promise to be better friends, and better neighbors.

**Song: The Least of These** (*read responsively and/or music played from collection*)

**Verse 1 (Leader)**

When I was hungry, you gave me bread,  
When I was weary, a place to rest my head.  
When I was lonely, you stayed awhile,  
And in your kindness, I saw God smile.

**Chorus (Audience)**

Whatever you do for the least of these,  
You do it for Me, you serve the King.  
In every hand, in every face,  
Is Christ Himself—so give with grace.

**Verse 2 (Leader)**

When I was naked, you gave me clothes,  
When I was burdened, you helped me close.  
You didn’t see what others see—  
But gave your heart, and gave to Me.

**Chorus (Audie**

Whatever you do for the least of these,  
You do it for Me, you serve the King.  
In every hand, in every face,  
Is Christ Himself—so give with grace.

**Bridge (All)**

He walks in the poor, the sick, the small,  
He waits in the margins, known not at all.  
But love will find Him every time—  
In simple gifts, in acts divine.

**Final Chorus (All)**

Whatever you do for the least of these,  
You do it for Me, you serve the King.  
In every hand, in every face,  
Is Christ Himself... so give with grace.

**Reflection:** *As You Did for Me* challenges us to see service not as charity, but as mutual recognition. It asks: How do we respond to those who reject us? Can we stay open in the face of hate? The teens’ journey reveals that compassion isn’t about agreement, but about the stubborn decision to keep showing up. In a world eager to divide, this play calls us back to the basic, difficult command shared across faiths: to love our neighbor as ourselves—even when they make it hardest.