

PEPPERMINT SPICE LATTE

BARISTA is at work, cleaning and preparing for customers. SLICK GUY (Hollywood agent) enters.

Barista: Welcome to Cup O' Joe! May I take your order?

Slick Guy: Yes. One Peppermint Spice Latte. Thanks, babe.

Barista: That drink is very popular this time of year!

Slick Guy: Don't I know it. I'm a sucker for seasonal drinks. I wish October had one more day so I could have had 32 pumpkin spice lattes. Am I right?

Barista: Say, how would you like to get a *free* peppermint spice latte?

Slick Guy: Sure, what do I gotta do? Guess how many candy canes are in a jar? Text the word "LATTE" to Santa? 'Cause I would do that for you. Who loves you, *babay*?

Barista: Oh no, nothing like that. You simply have to tell me the true meaning of Christmas.

Slick Guy: Too easy! Christmas is about one very important, life-changing thing... presents! This year (*beat*) I'm getting' a new cell phone! Oh yeah! This one from last year is *so old*!

Barista: Sorry. That's not the true meaning of Christmas. That'll be \$8.50.

Slick Guy: Ay oh! Whaddaya mean? It's presents, babe. I've been waiting all year for new ear buds. They go a decibel higher now, and I need that because my ears are shot from listening to my earbuds too loud! Am I right or am I right? I'm right.

Barista: You can find what Christmas is really about in the Bible. The book of Luke, chapter two.

Slick Guy pays and the barista hands it over. Slick Guy exits, SHOPAHOLIC (Superdad) enters.

Barista: Welcome to Cup O' Joe. May I take your order?

Shopaholic: One peppermint spice latte. It's time I got *myself* a Christmas present!

Barista: Oh! Would you like a chance to earn a free one today?

Shopaholic: Sure! What do I have to do? Guess how many reindeer pull Santa's sleigh? It's eight! No, nine!! Because if it's really foggy, then Rudolph has to lead! Ugh! I missed it didn't I?

Barista: No. We don't do that kind of contest here... The kind where you make up your own question, then answer it... You simply have to tell me the true meaning of Christmas!

Shopaholic: For me, winter time is shopping time. I start on Thanksgiving, lining up at Walmart before the leftovers are put away. This year I scored a "My First iPad" for my son. I had to push three moms out of the way... but I got it! An hour ago I was at the mall getting

presents for my wife. We set a limit of \$600 each this year. I actually ran out of ideas on December third, but I'm just gonna keep shopping until I hit six hundred.

Barista: Couldn't you just spend less?

Shopaholic: And lower the budget for next year? Nooo, no. No? No. No. Picking the perfect gifts is what Christmas is all about! ... So, free drink?

Barista: Nope, sorry. That'll be \$8.50. The actual answer is in your Bible. Luke, chapter 2.

Shopaholic pays and the barista hands it over. Shopaholic exits, FOODIE enters.

Barista: Welcome to Cup O' Joe. May I take your order?

Foodie: Three words: Peppermint. Spice. Latte.

Barista: You sound like quite the latte connoisseur!

Foodie: I'm a Christmas *food* connoisseur. Holiday coffees, chocolates, candy canes, all of it!

Barista: Here's something Christmassy: If you can tell me the true meaning of Christmas, I'll give you a *free* peppermint spice latte!

Foodie: I just told you! It's about food! Turkey dinners... and cookies! Cookies are a must at Christmas. We cut them into every Christmas shape we can think of: Santa, elves, reindeer, wreaths, holly, snowflakes, trees, candy canes... everything!

Barista: You're still missing the most important thing!

Foodie: Frosty the Snowman?

Barista: (*getting frustrated*) No! Not Frosty the Snowman! Ugh! If you want to find the real answer, look in the Bible. Luke, chapter 2. That'll be \$8.50.

Foodie pays and the barista hands it over. Foodie exits, SKATER DUDE enters.

Barista: Welcome to Cup O' Joe. May I take your order?

Skater Dude: Yo! One peppermint spice latte, your baristaness.

Barista: Those things are selling like hot cakes!

Skater Dude: Hey, I didn't know you sold hot cakes here.

Barista: We don't. It's just an expression.

Skater Dude: No, I want a latte, not an espresso.

Barista: No, I said, "expr—" ...never mind. Would you like to win a free peppermint spice latte?

Skater Dude: Sure! What if I, like, chug an entire bottle of maple syrup, then you give me a free one!

Barista: No, that's not how this works. Besides, we don't have any maple syrup here.

Skater Dude: Then what do you put on the hot cakes?

Barista: Just tell me the true meaning of Christmas and I'll give you a free latte!

Skater Dude: No prob! Christmas is about, um, like, chipmunks roasting on an open fire... uhh, Jack Frost ripping off your nose... ummm, mewl vide barrels with squnger goalmire... and, uhh, polkas danced in Camaros?

Barista: Not even sort of. I'm pretty sure a lot of those weren't even words. If you want to find the answer, it's in the Bible. Luke, chapter 2. \$8.50 please.

Skater Dude pays and the barista hands it over. Skater Dude exits, BUSY LADY (business woman) enters.

Busy Lady: One peppermint spice latte. And make it quick!

Barista: You sound overwhelmed. Maybe I can help brighten up your day a little. I'll give you a free peppermint spice latte if you can tell me the true meaning of Christmas.

Busy Lady: For me, Christmas is going, going, going! There's my daughter's 4th grade Christmas party at school... They're making reindeer out of clothes pins—Ack! (*to phone*) Note to self, pick up clothes pins—Then there's my son's Christmas concert—Oh no! (*to phone*) Note to self, find a shop that can get worms out of a trumpet. There's the Christmas party at work—Uh oh! (*to phone*) Note to self, call Café Isabella and make reservations for 200—Then we also go watch the Christmas parade, attend the tree lighting downtown, and take the two kids to see Santa—dang it! (*to phone*) Note to self, I have three children...

Barista: Those are ways we *celebrate* Christmas. But Christmas is *about* something much more important. Find out in the Bible, Luke chapter 2. That'll be \$8.50 for the drink.

Busy Lady pays and the barista hands it over.

Busy Lady: (*to phone*) Note to self, drink coffee slowly. This time.

Busy Lady exits, INDECISIVE (pompous) enters.

Barista: Welcome to Cup O' Joe, may I take your order?

Indecisive: I'll have my favorite holiday drink, a peppermint spice latte.

Barista: Excellent selection for this time of year. In fact, we're offering a special deal today. A free peppermint spice latte if you can tell me the true meaning of Christmas.

Indecisive: (*offended*) I don't celebrate *Christmas*!

Barista: Oh, I'm sorry. What holiday do you observe?

Indecisive: *Holidays...* There's Bodhi Day, Saturnalia, the winter solstice, the Day of the Return of the Wandering Goddess, al-Adha, Hanukah, Festivus, Zartusht-no-diso, and Boxing Day!

Barista: (*confused*) That's interesting. Christmas is the only winter holiday I celebrate.

Indecisive: Pshh... intolerant!

Barista: (*deflated*) If you ever do decide to celebrate Christmas, you can find out what it's all about in the Bible. Luke, chapter 2. In the meantime, that'll be \$8.50 for the latte. Merry... Oh, just drink the thing.

Indecisive pays for the drink and the barista hands it over. Indecisive exits, CHEERY enters.

Barista: (*uncaring*) Welcome to Cup O' Joe, do you want some coffee or what?

Cheery: I think I'll have a peppermint spice latte.

Barista: Shocker. \$8.50.

Cheery: You seem kinda down. You should be happy! It's Christmas!

Barista: What makes you so happy? Did Jingleberry the magic unicorn put a penny in your shoe or something?

Cheery: No. Not that I'm aware of. Christmas is the time when we remember that God sent his only son, Jesus, to earth as a little baby boy. He was born to be an example to us so we would know how to follow God in our own lives.

Barista: Wait... you actually know what Christmas is all about?

Cheery: When that baby grew up, he died on a cross to save us from our sins so we can live with God forever in heaven. That's why I'm happy! Christmas is the birth of our savior!

Barista: Finally! Yes!! You are so right! Not everybody gets that. But I do get it. And if I want others to get it too, I need to show my joy for Christ off this season. Even if they don't feel the same way. Jesus came to earth for them too!

Cheery: That is what Christmas is all about.

Barista: Oh! I almost forgot! We're running a promotion. For knowing the true meaning of Christmas, your drink is on the house! Happy holidays.

Barista gives her a latte.

Cheery: I think you mean, "Merry Christmas!"

All exit.

CAST:

BARISTA Chipper, good worker. Gradually gets more disappointed in people as the story unfolds.

HELPER *(No lines)* This person makes the drinks while Barista deals with the public.

SLICK GUY Hollywood agent type. Dresses flashy, talks fast, calls people "babe."

SHOPAHOLIC Christmas is about showing off his/her gift purchasing prowess.

FOODIE A connoisseur of all Christmas foods. Loves them, wants them all.

SKATER DUDE Out of it, Bill and Ted type, not too bright.

BUSY LADY No nonsense businesswoman, gives herself notes so she won't forget important things.

INDECISIVE Celebrates every holiday except Christmas.

CHEERY Happy that its Christmas. Enjoying everything about the season, including Jesus.