

1ST BUSINESSMAN (cont'd)

Mr. Scrooge. Please let us express our
condolences.

SCROOGE

(with nastiness)

For what, my good man?

2ND BUSINESSMAN

Why, for the death of your partner, Jacob
Marley, of course.

SCROOGE

(snapping back)

Gentlemen. Condolences are for sobbing widows
not for me. Mr. Marley's death was expected and
came as no surprise. Anyway, he should have
died weeks ago. Instead he lingered along on
the very brink of mortal existence completely
useless to himself and to those of us who HAD
to remain around him. Now, if you will excuse
me gentlemen, it is late and I have work to do.

Scrooge tries to pass the Men.

3RD BUSINESSMAN

Will there be a service, Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

I suppose you could check with the undertaker
the day after tomorrow.

Scrooge exits in a huff.

1ST BUSINESSMAN

A heart of stone that Scrooge.

2ND BUSINESSMAN

Not a shred of decency in the old wretch.

3RD BUSINESSMAN

And on Christmas eve yet.

ALL

It's despicable.

NO. 4 - "JACOB MARLEY'S DEAD" (REPRISE AND SCENE CHANGE)

HE'S DEAD. HE'S DEAD.
JACOB MARLEY'S DEAD.
EVERYONE I SPOKE TO SAID THAT
JACOB MARLEY'S DEAD.
DEAD. DEAD.