

**Narrator:** Good evening. Are you ready for the second Act?

When Charles Dickens wrote “A Christmas Carol,” the fabric of society was being transformed by the effects of the Industrial Revolution. As with most “changes”, there is struggle.

These changes brought about great wealth but also great poverty. Charles Dickens knew this misery called poverty, very well. For in fact, as a lad, his own family was much like Cratchit family. In “A Christmas Carol”, Dickens wanted the emphasis to be *our* responsibility in relieving the miseries of poverty places. He wanted the central focus to be on sharing whatever abundance we have with others -- not only our family and friends, but with those whom society has otherwise forgotten, like the Cratchit family. Christmas gives us a time to share our abundance, without obligation, only love and joy.

If this is the legacy of Charles Dickens, then a wonderful legacy it is.

Its almost 2 o'clock... It's time for the second Angel to reveal, much-much more to Mr. Scrooge. Let us watch!