**Big Win**

**Theme:** Financial Management, Fiscal Responsibility

**The Players:**

Dave (a boss with a penchant for playing the lottery)

Ken (an employee with common sense)

**The Setting:**

The company break room

**The Point:**

Fantasizing about winning the lottery is not a financial strategy. Those who lack the discipline to manage modest income and means will also exhibit that same lack with more. It will just be on a grander scale.

*(Dave is sitting at a table rubbing a coin across a lottery scratch card. Ken enters stage left, sees Dave and reverses course to exit but Dave catches him.)*

**Dave:** Ken! *(Ken stops in his tracks and turns back approaching Dave)* Were you looking for me?

**Ken:** Nope. Just came in to grab a cup of coffee.

**Dave:** *(indicating over his shoulder)* It’s right over there, but it looked like you were leaving.

**Ken:** *(not wanting to admit the truth)* I left my coffee cup at my desk.

**Dave:** *(buying the story)* Oh…Hey, if you’ve got a minute.

**Ken:** Always got a minute for the guy who signs my checks!

**Dave:** I’m making some plans I wanted to run by you.

**Ken:** *(with a hint of sarcasm)* Of course you do.

**Dave:** *(picking up on the sarcasm)* What’s that supposed to mean?

**Ken:** *(brushing it off)* Nothing. It’s just Wednesday.

**Dave:** Not a good day for you?

**Ken:** No, Wednesday’s lottery day, right?

**Dave:** Wednesday and Saturday are the big days, yeah. So, did you want to hear my plans?

**Ken:** For the company?

**Dave:** Well…yeah, for the company. And other things, too.

**Ken:** If you win the lottery.

**Dave:** Right. I can’t make too many plans if I don’t win the lottery.

**Ken:** Do you really think winning the lottery is a sound business plan?

**Dave:** *(quickly and dismissively)* Of course not! *(pausing and a bit perplexed)* Whaddya mean?

**Ken:** I mean every Wednesday…and every Saturday for all I know…you hover over your computer calculating your winnings and plugging them into a spreadsheet as you figure out how to spend them.

**Dave:** Well you have to plan or you’ll just blow it all without thinking about it. You’ve seen those shows about lottery winners who lose everything.

**Ken:** Exactly. But it’s not because they didn’t have a plan for their lottery winnings. It’s because they never planned what they had before they won the lottery.

**Dave:** If you don’t win the lottery there isn’t that much to plan.

**Ken:** And that’s exactly the kind of thinking that scares me.

**Dave:** I don’t get you. I’m planning out my strategy.

**Ken:** If you win the lottery. But how much time to you spend planning out your strategy if you don’t? You still have money, and this company, and all of that requires planning. *(realizing who he’s talking to)* Listen, you’re the boss and if you want to dream about coming into millions who am I to tell you what to do.

**Dave:** But you think it’s a waste of my time.

**Ken:** I think you’re setting yourself up to take what you do have much less seriously than you should, that’s all. I mean, where’s the cutoff?

**Dave:** Whaddya mean?

**Ken:** I mean what’s the theoretical number in your head that is large enough to be worth planning? If you came into a million dollars tomorrow is that enough to plan for? Or do you just spend that without much planning? Is five million or ten million the threshold? You play the lottery every week but I know guys who only play if it gets up over three hundred million. I guess they figure it’s not worth it for less.

**Dave:** So you’re saying I should have a plan no matter how much money I have or where it comes from.

**Ken:** There’s a reason your name’s at the top of the company letterhead.

**Dave:** Yes, because I know how to plan for when the windfall comes.

**Ken:** That must be it. *(turning to exit)* Drop by tomorrow and let me know how tonight’s drawing went. *(He exits and Dave goes back to scratching off the lottery card with a shrug)*