

"What the Innkeeper Missed"

Written by Andrew and Susanna Little, edited by Suzanne Herlihy

Cast:

*Narrator-***Suzanne Herlihy**

*Innkeeper/Sa,-***Quinton Haines**

*Innkeeper's Son / Samuel-***Jonathan Berg**

*Joseph-***Jeffrey Berg**

*Mary-***Elisabeth Berg**

*Shepherd-***Brian Sideleau**

*Tax Collector-***Brian Sideleau**

*Angel-***Juliet Lin**

*Cousin Rachel-***Juliet Lin**

*Stable animals-***Avery and Amelie Lin**

Narrator: Scene 1-Inn in Bethlehem with Innkeeper Sam

Innkeeper: Good evening, everyone! It's good to see you here. You can call me Sam! I run the finest lodging establishment here in this town. Ask anyone around and they will tell you that you can't beat Old Sam! Our prices can't be beat, and if they can? Well... good for you! *(Laughs slightly)* I know this is a special time of the year for all of you, but this time of year always reminds me of that night. Oh that night... If I could just go back, I would change everything I did. I didn't know how important He was. I mean, I had heard the stories about His coming, but to be honest, I never really paid much attention to them. You see, I am a business man... wait, you didn't come here to hear my excuses. You came for the story. It started on a night much like this, a young couple came to town...

Narrator: Scene 2-Streets of Bethlehem with Mary, Joseph, his cousin Rachel, and the Tax Collector

Mary: Joseph, where are we going to stay tonight?

Joseph: Just one thing at a time, Mary. The taxes need to be paid first.

Mary: Don't you have family still living here? Would they be willing to put us up for the night?

Joseph: Yes there are some, but we haven't spoken in years. I am sure they will. If not, I am sure we can find an inn that is still open. Don't worry, the Lord will provide.

Mary: I know He will... His Son deserves to be born some place nice, not out in the open.

Joseph: Don't worry Mary, everything will work out. (*Muttering to himself*) Now where is the tax collector?

Mary: Joseph, I am so cold.

Joseph: Don't worry, I will find you some place warm.

Tax Collector: Good evening, sir!

Joseph: Good evening, we are here to pay the taxes we owe, as declared by Caesar Augustus.

Tax Collector: I can certainly help you with that. What is your name?

Joseph: My name is Joseph, son of Jacob, of the House of David.

Tax Collector: Oh yes, here you are in my book. This is what you owe.

Joseph-Here is my payment.

Tax Collector: Thank you sir, have a wonderful evening.

Joseph: Thank you. Is there an inn around here where my wife and I could stay for the night?

Tax Collector: We have several fine establishments around here, but honestly they are probably all full up. You should try the one next door. It is run by my good friend, Sam. You can't beat Sam!

Joseph: Thank you for your help. Hey ! Cousin Rachel, I haven't seen you in a long time!

Cousin Rachel: It has been awhile, how are you?

Joseph: We are doing well. Mary, this is my cousin Rachel who still lives in Bethlehem. My wife and I are looking for a place to rest for the night. Don't you own an inn here in town?

Rachel: Why yes, we do!

Joseph: Could you put us up for the night?

Rachel: (*Begins to laugh.*) You're joking, right? At this late notice?

Joseph: No, my wife is expecting our first child to be born soon.

Rachel: Congratulations Mary! But you should have arrived earlier. I'm sorry to tell you we have no rooms available.

Joseph: Ok, I understand. Thank you anyway.

Rachel: Sorry we couldn't help out.

Narrator: Scene 3 Back at the Inn, Mary and Joseph speak with the Innkeeper Sam and his son Samuel

Innkeeper: Things didn't look too happy for the young couple. They searched several local inns before they came to see me. Oh, the things I would have done differently, if I had just realized who they were.

Mary: Joseph, what are we going to do? The time is getting close, and I don't know how much further I can go on.

Joseph: Let's try one more, surely they have a place we can stay. Look Mary, this is the place the tax collector recommended.

Innkeeper: Welcome friends! The name is Sam! And this is my son, Samuel. I am the owner of this fine establishment. What can I do for you?

Joseph: My name is Joseph, and this is my wife, Mary. We have searched several inns in the area trying to find a place to stay.

Innkeeper: Well you should have come to see me first! There is always room with Sam!

Joseph: So do you have a room for us to stay?

Innkeeper: Did you have a friend or relative reserve a room for you?

Joseph: No, we just got to town, hoping to find a place to stay when we got here.

Innkeeper: *(Begins to laugh)* Are you kidding me? We have been booked up for a week.

Joseph: You have to have something. My wife and I are expecting our first child anytime now. She just can't go on anymore.

Innkeeper: I am really sorry, but I don't have anything available.

Joseph: Thank you anyway. *(Turns to Mary)* I'm sorry honey...

Innkeeper's Son: *(Jumps up and shouts)* Wait! What about the stable out back Dad?

Innkeeper: I didn't think about that, but I don't think they would want to stay in an old stable. Would you?

Mary: Anything would be better than sleeping on the streets.

Joseph: Yes ! We will take it.

Innkeeper: Well I would say that out of all the stables in town, mine is the finest! Just lined it with fresh hay this morning myself. Samuel, run out there and make sure everything is presentable.

Innkeeper's Son: Daddy, everything looks good!

Innkeeper: Thank you, son. Just follow me, Joseph and Mary.

Stable Animals-Moo, Baa, Quack, Neigh

Narrator After settling Mary and Joseph in the stable , Sam returns to his office

Innkeeper: As soon as that young couple came to town, everything changed. I can't explain it, but it was like a presence had arrived in our little town that hadn't been there before. Later on that night, I heard the sound of a baby crying, and I knew their child had been born. What happened next was strange...

Narrator: Scene 4 Shepherds are in the fields outside Bethlehem, watching over their sheep and an angel appears

Angel-Do not be afraid Shepherds for I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Narrator: Scene 5-The shepherds leave their fields and rush to Bethlehem to the office and stables of the Inn

Shepherd: (*Out of breath*) Where is He?

Innkeeper: Wait just a minute, you don't come barging into a fine place of business like this...

Shepherd: You don't understand, where is He?

Innkeeper: Where is Who?

Shepherd: Him!

Innkeeper: Who?

Shepherd: You know, Him!

Innkeeper: I have no idea who you are talking about.

Shepherd: The Savior! He just came to town.

Innkeeper: What does He look like?

Shepherd: They told us that we would find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Innkeeper: Alright, let me get this straight. You are looking for a baby, who just came to town, dressed in rags, lying in a food trough?

Shepherd: Yes!

Innkeeper: And you are saying He is the Savior?

Shepherd: Yes!

Innkeeper: (*Shouts*) Are you crazy?

Shepherd: No, the angels told us!

Innkeeper: Do what?

Shepherd: Yes, the angels! After the angel told us where to find Him, a whole host of angels showed up in the sky, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And as soon as they disappeared we talked about it and decided to come to Bethlehem and see what the Lord had made us aware of.

Innkeeper: I think you are nuts, but there was a Baby born a little while ago. He is in the stable behind my inn. Just go right down that path.

Shepherd: Thank you, sir!

Innkeeper's Son: What was wrong with that shepherd?

Innkeeper: I have no idea.

Stable Animals-Moo, quack, Neigh, Baa

Shepherd: (*Shouting*) Woo hoo! He's here! He's here!

Innkeeper's Son: Daddy, really, what was wrong with those people?

Innkeeper: I really have no idea.

Narrator Scene 6-The next day the Innkeeper is working in his office and Mary and Joseph come out as they are leaving

Innkeeper: Well, hello there! How are you doing?

Joseph: We are doing well... we are headed home.

Innkeeper: Thank you for your stay, I trust you found your accommodations acceptable?

Mary: As nice as a barn could be!

Innkeeper: Oh, that's right, you guys are the ones staying in the stable.

Joseph: Yes, well, have a pleasant day.

Innkeeper: Just a minute, you never told me your Child's name?

Mary: He carries the name given to Him by His Father.

Innkeeper: Oh, Joseph.

Mary: No, Jesus, for He is the Son of God.

Innkeeper: *(Starts off with his head in his hands, then slowly raises his head)* I missed it. I can't believe I missed it. I had the opportunity to meet God's Son, and I missed it. I have heard for the most of my life that the Savior was coming, but I wasn't paying close enough attention. I missed Him.

Narrator: Bethlehem was a city with no room for the son of God. The Innkeeper, the tax collector, Joseph's cousin and most of the city missed the birth of Jesus. Will you be paying attention? Will you have room in your heart to welcome the Savior? Will you be ready?