

PERUSAL SCRIPT

WHEN HE COMES

by
Stephen Tomek I



Newport, Maine

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WHEN HE COMES

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ORDER #3370

CAST OF CHARACTERS — 2b, 1g, 3f, 2m, 5-8 either

Jamis — young teen boy

Benjamin — young teen boy

Mary — the virgin

Joseph — her husband

Innkeeper

Innkeeper's Wife

Grandmother

Innkeeper's Daughter — teen girl

Shepherd 1

Shepherd 2

Shepherd 3

Angels

SETTING: in and around the village of Bethlehem

TIME: 0 -1 AD

WHEN HE COMES by Stephen Tomek – 2b, 1g, 3f, 2m, (5-8 ensemble) Bethlehem in the Meridien of Time. About 45 minutes. Jamis, the innkeeper's son and his ornery friend, Benjamin, start out to cause some problems for some very weary travelers. After securing a price to lead the travelers to his father's inn, the wayward boys set out to cause some trouble. Their first visit is the inn stable where their lives, and the lives of their whole family, are changed by a new-born baby. **ORDER #3370**

STEPHEN TOMEK — Nestled in the rolling hills of Eastern Pennsylvania, Ormrod and its scenic quarries was Stephen's stomping grounds as a child. At thirteen he was sent to a boarding school in West Virginia where he spent the next seven years including two years of college. He later finished college with a BTH working as a RA. Always bi-vocational, he has pastored and worked in Ohio, South Carolina, and North Carolina. He is currently Vice president of the Bible Methodist of Tennessee. He and his wife Angela now live in Langsville, Ohio and pastor in Rutland, Ohio. Four of their five children live near them and one is on missionary assignment in Montana.

WHEN HE COMES

SCENE 1 — Begins with MARY, JOSEPH, (and donkey if possible) traveling road to Bethlehem. JAMIS and BENJAMIN are hiding behind a bush waiting to throw stones at the weary travelers.

JAMIS: *(as MARY and JOSEPH approach bush)* Got a big stone Benj?

BENJAMIN: You bet Jam, and I'm gonna hit that donkey right in the noggin!

JAMIS: Ah, you couldn't hit the broad side of a sepulcher.

BENJAMIN: *(poke Jamis in the ribs)* You just wait!

JAMIS: Hush!

(fingers to lips)

They're getting close... Oh no!...

BENJAMIN: What!?

JAMIS: I think they see us. Get down.

(BENJAMIN lays on ground.)

JOSEPH: *(approaching)* Hello, boy.

(JAMIS tries to step back.)

I have a favor to ask you.

JAMIS: *(disgustedly)* Oh boy.

(He steps out with rock behind his back.)

BENJAMIN: *(whispering)* Man, you blew this one!

JAMIS: Uh – Yes sir, What do you want?

JOSEPH: My wife and I have been traveling from far off Nazareth for the last several days. We are tired and need a place to stay for the night. Could you kindly show us the way to an Inn near here.

JAMIS: *(Looking at Mary for a moment, then like a brilliant idea strikes him and drops rock)* Why surely sir, I would love to help you, but, but...

JOSEPH: Yes?

JAMIS: You see, My poor sickly father has sent me to town to beg money for a small portion of food for tonight's supper. I, I, Ah, perhaps

(thinking)

kind Mr. Nazareth, for a small fee I could lead you to yonder Inn.

JOSEPH: A small fee eh...

JAMIS: Yes, say maybe one

(looks at bush)

uh, two shekels, would be sufficient.

JOSEPH: *(Looking doubtful)* I hardly believe your story young man, but since I am in need, then 2 shekels it will be.

(Looks at MARY, she winks and smiles, JOSEPH puts hand to mouth and whispers)

I ought to thrash him.

JAMIS: Thank you kind Mr. Nazareth. Follow me.

(Grabs donkey by ear. Donkey brays.)

JOSEPH: Young man never grab a donkey by the ear...

(LIGHTS go out.)

SCENE 2 — *LIGHTS come on at Inn's door.*

JAMIS: Here we are, Sir – now for the money.

(JOSEPH reaches in bag and pulls out two shekels as door suddenly opens – JAMIS takes off quickly.)

INNKEEPER: Jamis Uziah, come here now, your chores are not finished.

(Jamis disappears)

JOSEPH: Oh – so you know the young man?

INNKEEPER: Know him? Know him? I oughta know him, He's my son. My wayward son, I might add.

And this here is his broken-hearted mother.

(WIFE nods)

And may I ask, why you were giving the young lad money.

JOSEPH: I was just giving him a gift for bringing my wife and I to your Inn.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: Did the boy ask for money?

JOSEPH: Yes ma'am, but truthfully we did need to find this place, for we are weary with travel and my wife is great with child.

(INNKEEPER and WIFE nod heads.)

INNKEEPER: Well, still, he shouldn't have asked, Ever since he started hanging around with those other rascals, we have not been able to control him. Oh me, oh my, what shall I do with him? Oh, and about the room – I'm very sorry.

JOSEPH: Sorry?

INNKEEPER: Sorry indeed – you see, I wish all my rooms were full of common folks like you; here to pay your taxes. But unfortunately, my rooms are full of those who will collect your taxes and soldiers who will punish you if you don't.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: *(looks at Mary)* Surely dear, you could find a place some where to put up these poor folks.

INNKEEPER'S DAUGHTER: I know Papa – What about the stable. I could clean it up for them and there would be lots of warm hay, in case...

(Looks at parents)

You, you know...

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: Yes, we understand, Darling.

INNKEEPER: What a splendid idea, Dumpling. The stable it will be. That is, if it's all right with you folks.

JOSEPH: Indeed,

(MARY agreeing)

that sounds wonderful. How much will this be?

INNKEEPER: Whatever you paid the rapsallion will be fine. I'll take it from his hide later.

(LIGHTS out.)

SCENE 3 — *JAMIS and BENJAMIN are alone sitting talking.*

BENJAMIN: That was great Jamis. A whole shekel.

(looks admiringly at coin)

Can't wait to spend it...

(thinks)

...but I still would have liked to bean the donkey.

JAMIS: Oh, you'll get your chance tonight.

BENJAMIN: Tonight?

JAMIS: Have you already forgot? Tonight is the night we sneak out and stone Abijah's beehives and whatever else we can stone.

BENJAMIN: Yeah—like Grouchy Martha's cat...

JAMIS: ...and that crazy man in the graveyard.

BENJAMIN: *(looking scared)* That's your idea, not mine.

JAMIS: Yeah, can you imagine. When he finally wakes up; the last thing he remembers going through his mind is a five pound piece of granite.

(BOTH laugh)

Remember, when I throw a pebble at your window, it's time to go.

BENJAMIN: I'll be ready, all except that graveyard thing.

JAMIS: Laughs

(LIGHTS out)

SCENE 4 — *The Inn. INNKEEPER is counting money, WIFE is sowing. JAMIS is sitting playing with marbles. GRANDMOTHER walks in with scroll.*

GRANDMOTHER: All right everyone – time to put all your worldly things away and read.

(JAMIS tries to slip past to leave.)

Oh, Oh,

(grabs JAMIS by ear)

not so fast young man. What's your hurry?

JAMIS: Ouch, Grandmother, I, I, uh just need to go to bed, that's all.

GRANDMOTHER: Well, you never go to bed this early and NEVER before we read the ancient Scriptures.

(She leads him to a chair and sets him down, he rubs his ear, she sits down and opens the Scriptures and looks at INNKEEPER, waiting for him to put money away. Finally he looks over at her and puts his stuff away.)

Thank you, John. Why must it always be a fuss to get you two boys to stop what you're doing and read the ancient scriptures?

INNKEEPER: Please forgive me Mother. I'm just having trouble getting the numbers to come out right.

GRANDMOTHER: If those numbers weren't soooo important maybe...

INNKEEPER: I know Mother.

GRANDMOTHER: *(Picks scroll back up)* Alright, lets see...Micah 5:2-4

2. But thou, Bethlehem though thou be little among the thousands of Judah yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting
3. Therefore will he give them up until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel
4. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth .

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: Mother, you surely seem to love those verses.

GRANDMOTHER: Oh, yes, My Daughter, I do.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: But Why?

GRANDMOTHER: Because it speaks of the one who is to come, my Messiah, my Master. And this Scripture says he will come to our town. Little Bethlehem.

(Much expression)

INNKEEPER: Oh Mother – you act like He's coming tonight.

GRANDMOTHER: *(long sigh)* John, maybe not tonight, but soon.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: But how do you know Mother?

GRANDMOTHER: I can't explain it daughter, but there is a feeling deep in my old bones. An excitement.

He will come and he will come soon.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: But how will He come Mother. Will He ride into town with a Legion of men? Will we know it is Him when He comes?

GRANDMOTHER: My Daughter, He will come, not as a great King, but what does the Scripture say? “Unto us a Son is born, unto us a Son is given.” He will come as a Baby, and when He does come – I want to be there to bow my knees before him.

(LIGHTS go dim)

SCENE 5: *Opens at Stable (right side of platform) MARY holding new baby.*

NARRATOR: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

(MARY should give part of the magnificat and sing song.[Possibly The Song of Hannah.]

(LIGHT shines on other side where JAMIS just drops from window to meet BENJAMIN.)

JAMIS: Well, you ready?

BENJAMIN: Kind of.

JAMIS: What do you mean, kind of?

BENJAMIN: Well...

(looks around)

I still don't like that crazy man – graveyard thing.

JAMIS: Oh, you Big Chicken – Don't worry, we got our slings and there are plenty of stones. We'll be all right.

BENJAMIN: Shhh – what's that?

JAMIS: It sounds; like a...

JAMIS and BENJAMIN: Baby!

7 More pages of script