

“The Innkeeper’s Dilemma:Duet”

by
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What: This drama covers the Christmas story from the point of view of an innkeeper who seeking to fill that hole in his spirit. (Themes: Christmas, Holiness, Grace)

Who: Stuart Patron
Shepherd Wiseman
Paperboy

When: Biblical times

Why: Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12

Wear (Props): Plate of rolls, briefcase, mints, newspaper. Costuming should be as biblical as necessary for the characters, noting that the second actor should only have to change a piece here and there to make a new character. Wiseman should look something like a Blues Brother (dark suit/white shirt/tie)

How: In order make this a true duet, Patron, Shepherd, and Wiseman should all be played by the second actor. Of course, you always have the option of casting out each part. *Note- this is the version that is performed on video by Tommy and Eddie and can be viewed at www.skitguys.com.

Audience: High School or Adult Worship

Time: Approximately 12-15 minutes

Scene 1

*The scene starts with **Stuart**, the innkeeper, yelling at his wife offstage.*

Stuart: *(To audience)* It has been chaos outside everywhere. You see, Caesar has issued this decree that everyone in the land should be counted. Everyone has come back to their hometowns to register and Bethlehem is packed with people. I’ve never seen anything like this before! The vendors are out selling like mad; the economy has never seen better days! Quite amazing. I tell you, it would take a miracle to top what I’ve seen in Bethlehem over these past few weeks. A complete miracle! I couldn’t even begin to describe what it would take to top this. *(Pause)* This is my inn: Bethlehem Bed and Breakfast. We were going to call it the Holiday Inn, but it just didn’t have the same ring to it.

There was this couple who came late tonight. They have made a lasting impression on me. The two looked very tired. I was on the front porch with my wife and they came up to us and the girl was on this donkey. She said to me, “Sir, we are very tired. Can you please find a place for us at your inn?” I told them like I told the people before them. I was so sorry but there was just no room here. She looked at me and said, “You don’t understand, my husband has been on foot all this time. We’ve been traveling eighty-five miles and we are very exhausted. Don’t you have anything?” Now, please know I’m a businessman first. Always have been! I couldn’t do anything. Bethlehem was packed! So when I say to you I

was about to tell them to leave for the second time, don’t take me rude.

Then I realized something that I totally passed by. The young girl, she was pregnant. I knew right then I couldn’t leave them out in the cold night. I started to think where I could put them. The only place I could think of was the barn. My mother would roll over in her grave if she knew I was thinking of sending someone there. It’s full of stench, manure, animals, hay. No place to put tow people! It’s all I had. I said to them, “You can have the barn. There’s nothing else I can offer. It’s yours if you want it.” They both smiled at me and said, “Thank you.” They started to walk off and the gentleman turned around and said, “God bless you,” then looked at his wife, smiled put his hand on her stomach and said, “because He’s about to bless us.”

I tell you, there was something different about them. If only you could have seen the way he treated her. The way they treated each other! It was such a sight to see. I’ve tried to think of a word to describe this couple. The only word that seems to run through my mind is kind of a quirky word. We don’t hear the word very much but it’s the only word that seems to fit. The word, “Holy.” Yes, that is the only word that can describe what I witnessed. Holy... they were just different.

Patron enters.

Patron: Describe your rooms to me please.

Stuart: Pardon me.

- Patron:** I need a place to sleep, what have you got?
- Stuart:** I have no room here at the inn. Everything is completely full.
- Patron:** You’re telling me! This whole census thing. I mean I wasn’t going to come at all, but my CPA said I had to so here I am.
- Stuart:** You’re out luck here, sir.
- Patron:** You must have some rooms vacant. I have money, but more importantly I didn’t read the sign wrong.
- Stuart:** What sign? I turned off the vacancy sign about an hour ago.
- Patron:** The star. I’ve been following the star for the past half hour. It’s so bright, I swore it meant vacancy. I guess it meant un-vacancy. I mean look at it, it’s shining all over your inn. Well, really your barn but you wouldn’t put people in your barn would you?
- Stuart:** No, not even a pregnant woman.
- Patron:** What?
- Stuart:** Nothing, keep talking.
- Patron:** Well, you must have something for me?
- Stuart:** All I can offer you is a cup of coffee.
- Patron:** No, it will keep me up. Believe it or not, but I get a little wired with caffeine.

- Stuart:** It’s decaffeinated, drink up.
- Patron:** Are you sure? It’s tastes like regular.
- Stuart:** That’s the secret of new Pharaoh’s new decaffeinated coffee- it tastes like regular but it’s decaffeinated.
- Patron:** Mmmm. Good cup o’ Joe. I wish I had some...
- Stuart:** Bread? (*Holds a plate of rolls*)
- Patron:** (*Takes a bite of roll*) MAN-NA! It tastes great! Where did you get this?
- Stuart:** Like it do you? God it at old man Moses’ down the street. He has a slew of them if you get hungry in the morning.
- Patron:** It’s good, but I could do without the butter. Trying to watch the weight.
- Stuart:** It’s not butter. It’s a butter substitute.
- Patron:** It tastes like butter.
- Stuart:** It’s not it has half the calories and fat than regular margarine.
- Patron:** I cannot believe it’s not butter.
- Stuart:** It’s not butter.
- Patron:** Where should I lay my head tonight?
- Stuart:** Let’s see, there is a hotel down the street. It’s about three, four... it’s the sixth motel.

- Patron:** Oh, the motel six? I see it.
- Both:** The one with the lights on.
- Patron:** I’ll be going now. Merry Census!
- Stuart:** I’m sorry, what?
- Patron:** Merry Census. I’m working on a new catchphrase. This is going to be one of the biggest days in history! It’s setting commerce on its feet; people are making money like never before... Merry Census! I’ve trademarked it and everything.
- Stuart:** I like it. Merry Census!
- Patron:** (*Walking off*) You owe me a dollar.
- Stuart:** He followed that star. What if it did mean something? What if that star had a purpose? It does seem to be lighting up my barn quite a bit. It’s so big, I’ve truly never seen anything like it before. Alright Stuart, getting a hold of yourself. There is nothing special about a star, that’s just crazy.

Scene 2

- Shepherd:** CRAZY! CRAZY! This is crazy!
- Stuart:** Pardon me?
- Shepherd:** I know what’s going on inside your barn! I’ve been inside your barn!
- Stuart:** You smell like my barn.