



## Bible Drama Scripts presents

# MISSING THE MESSIAH

Drama Sketch in Two Voices for Advent or Christmas

By Patricia Souder

**SYNOPSIS:** As she returns from getting water, Stella stops to ask her neighbor, Mira, if she's heard what the shepherds are saying. Mira's petty preconceptions provide a humorous look at how easy it is to block relationships and insights, but her tirade on caring eventually helps both women confront the impact of what the shepherds are saying. As they do, they discover: "If it is true . . . and we don't believe it . . . We'll be missing the truth! And more importantly . . . We'll be missing the Messiah!"

**SETTING:** A table in front of Mira's village home in Bethlehem.

**CHARACTERS:**

**STELLA:** A villager who heard the shepherds talking about the birth of the Messiah while she secured water from the village well.

**MIRA:** A petty, petulant neighbor whom Stella visits as she carries her water home.

Note: Although both characters are fictional, they reflect the general attitude toward shepherds at the time of Christ's birth. Stella's and Mira's struggles to know what to believe offer fresh insights into the dilemma the people of Bethlehem . . . and our world . . . face in knowing what to believe.

**PERFORMANCE TIME:** 7 minutes.

**PERFORMANCE NOTES:**

- Characters perform lines together when marked with a star.
- Italics in the dialogue indicate words that should be emphasized.

**TOPICS:** Advent. Christmas. Preconceived prejudices.

**PERFORMANCE POSSIBILITIES:** Worship services. Advent and Christmas programs. Small groups.

Women's groups.

**BIBLE REFERENCES:** Luke 2:8-20

**PROPS:** Two earthenware jugs, a stool, a small table, bread dough.

STELLA

(Enters carrying two earthenware jugs of water.  
Puts jugs down to talk to MIRA. Speaks with excitement.)

Mira, did you hear what the shepherds are saying?

I didn't say I care.  
I asked if you heard.

(Glazes over as MIRA talks and talks.)

Mira, you're missing the point.  
I just asked if you heard . . .  
what the shepherds are saying.

(Irritated.) Mira, I don't need to tell anyone.  
I was willing to tell you because I thought  
you'd be interested.  
But obviously, you're missing any interest.

(Picks up one jug.)  
Look, this conversation is going nowhere!  
In fact, it's in reverse going backward.  
(Picks up second jug and starts to walk away.)

(Turns and looks at MIRA in amazement.)  
I offered you a carrot and pulled it back  
before you got a bite?  
Am I missing something?

MIRA

(Sits on a stool behind a small table on which she kneads bread dough. Shocked at what STELLA says because of preconceived ideas.)

(Stops kneading dough to look at STELLA.)  
Did I hear you right, Stella?  
You mean you actually care what shepherds are saying?

(Kneads vigorously. Speaks with irritation.)  
I heard what you said.  
But did you hear what I said?  
I asked if you care . . .  
Because if you don't care, why should I care?  
And if neither of us cares, why does it matter?  
(Glances over and sees STELLA has zoned out.)  
STELLA! Don't tune me out!  
After all, you started it!

★ what the shepherds are saying.  
(Straightens up and takes a deep breath.)  
As I said . . .  
Oh, never mind.  
(Kneads vigorously.)  
You're missing my point.  
But I get your point:  
You need to tell someone.  
So, go ahead: Tell me.

(Becomes increasingly irritated.)  
And you're missing what I'm trying to say.  
They're shepherds, Stella!  
No one cares what shepherds say!

(Stops kneading dough and follows STELLA.)  
So you're not going to tell me?  
How can you hold out a carrot of information . . .  
And then pull it back before I even get a bite?

STELLA

Didn't you make it clear that you don't care?

(*Rolls eyes. Shifts weight to rebalance jugs.*)  
That's what I always thought . . . until today.

(*Follows MIRA back to her table.*)  
The shepherds say the Messiah was born last  
night . . . (*Puts down jugs as she speaks.*)  
And they saw him.

I have no clue!  
All I know is that they're running all over  
Bethlehem saying they saw the Messiah.

In a manger.

(*Irritated.*) MIRA! (*Picks up a jug.*)  
My marbles were just fine until you started  
messing with them.

(*Sighs.*) I'm only telling you what I heard.

(*Picks up the other jug.*)  
You won't like the answer.

(*Rolls her eyes.*)  
Have you listened to yourself, Mira?  
You question everything I say.

Not when you miss the point by doing it!  
(*Walks away.*)

Angels.

MIRA

(*Shrugs and looks down.*)  
I might have said something like that.  
(*Looks at STELLA and smiles weakly.*)  
But I don't want you to leave without telling me.  
After all, I'd really hate missing a good story.

So, what's the story?  
(*Walks back to her table. Starts kneading dough.*)

Shepherds say the Messiah was born last night?  
(*Starts to laugh.*)  
Am I missing something?  
Shepherds take care of sheep and lambs.  
What do they know about Messiahs being born?

Where? Where did they see him?

A manger?  
(*Rolls eyes.*)  
Isn't that where cows eat?  
Stella, are you missing your marbles?

Sorry, Stella.  
But it's so bizarre!

So what makes them think they saw the Messiah?

How do you know?

Well, it's good to ask questions.

(*Stops kneading dough and chases STELLA.*)  
STELLA, WAIT!  
Why do the shepherds think this is the Messiah?  
(*Sighs and turns around.*)

STELLA

I warned you that . . .  
You wouldn't like the answer.

(Puts down one of the jugs.)  
Look, I know it's hard to believe.  
It goes against conventional wisdom.

(Puts down the other jug.)  
Perhaps.

Only I wonder if we aren't missing  
something important by holding onto  
conventional wisdom's preconceived notions.

Like who the shepherds really are . . .  
And how God really works . . .  
And what is really true.

I don't know.  
I can't prove it.  
I didn't see the baby.  
I didn't see the manger.  
I didn't see the angels.  
So . . .  
I'm not sure what to believe.  
But I did hear the shepherds . . .  
And they sure believed it.

It's not that I *want* to believe it, Mira.  
But I can't help wondering . . .  
What if it's true and we don't believe?  
What if it's true and we don't even care?

Absolutely!  
In fact, someone who recently accused me of  
not listening asked:  
“And if neither of us cares, why does it matter?”

MIRA

*Angels?*  
Surely you're not going to say that *angels* told  
*shepherds* the *Messiah* was born in a *manger* ?

★ I wouldn't like the answer.  
But it's so ludicrous!  
How can it possibly be true?  
Shepherds are rude and crude . . .  
with sticky fingers and slow minds.  
There's *no way* angels would tell shepherds  
*anything*.  
(Starts kneading dough again.)

(Looks up from kneading with a look of  
vindication.)  
Well, then: Perhaps I'm *riding* a wave of  
conventional wisdom instead of *missing* it.

Like what?

But how can this story be true?

★ You're not sure what to believe.

So, if I'm not missing something, you want to  
believe it because the *shepherds* believe it?  
Is that it, Stella?

So it is important to care after all!

(Thoughtfully.)

STELLA

Well, we have to care enough to decide if it's true.

We don't *have* to believe anything.  
But, Mira, what if we don't believe it . . .  
And it's true?  
(Pauses and looks at MIRA intently.)  
What if it's true, Mira?

What if it's really true . . .  
And we don't believe it?  
MIRA . . .  
If it *is* true . . .  
And we don't believe it . . .  
We'll be missing the truth!  
And more importantly . . .  
(Dramatic pause.)  
WE'LL BE MISSING THE MESSIAH!

MIRA

So you think it matters enough that we have to care what the shepherds are saying?

And then we have to believe what they say?  
(Looks troubled. Kneads vigorously.)

(Looks at STELLA.)  
Now look who's asking questions!  
(Pauses. Then looks at STELLA intently.)  
But what if it *is* true, Stella . . .  
And we don't even care?  
★ What if it's really true . . .  
★ And we don't believe it?  
★ STELLA . . .  
★ If it *is* true . . .  
★ And we don't believe it . . .  
★ We'll be missing the truth!  
★ And more importantly . . .  
★ (Dramatic pause.)  
WE'LL BE MISSING THE MESSIAH!