

“THE CHRISTMAS ENCOUNTER”

By
Terry Stanley

Synopsis

After the Evans Family returns home from a Christmas play, the Father believes some of the events in the Christmas story are over-dramatized. Sure, a baby was born, but an Angel appearing to Shepherds, a big shining star in the sky, and Wise Men walking hundreds of miles, is hyperbole. God hears the Father's complaint and sends the original Christmas Angel to visit him.

Scripture: Luke 2:10-20

Ministry/Life Lesson

The Shepherds serve as a model on what we should all do on Christmas Day; seek Jesus and take time to praise and worship Him.

Ministry Focus: Christmas

Genre: Comedy

Cast

Father - Male (30-40)
Mother - Female (30-40)
Angel - Female (Adult - any age)
Son 1 - Male (7-10)
Son 2 - Male (7-10)

Costumes

Parents - normal daily wear
Angel - white dress, scarf, and hat
Boys - in biblical Shepherd costumes

Props

Shepherd staffs
Bologna sandwich
Bottle of Diet Coke

Time: 10-15 minutes

THE CHRISTMAS ENCOUNTER

INT. HOME

The family is returning home from church. The children (2 boys) are still dressed in their Christmas costumes (Shepherds).

FAMILY ENTERS

BOYS RUN IN FIRST FOLLOWED BY PARENTS. BOYS ARE EXCITED, JUMPING AROUND, AND PLAYING WITH THEIR SHEPHERD STAFFS.

MOTHER

Alright...alright, calm down, the Christmas play is over. Hey, don't tear those costumes. (Sarcastically) Sister Johnson will have a fit!

MOTHER AND FATHER PROCEED TO TAKE OFF THEIR COATS

SON 1

(Excited, speaking to his brother) It's Christmas Eve; let's try to find the Christmas Star!

THE BOYS RUSH OVER TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW

SON 2

Look, there it is!

SON 1

Where?

SON 2

Over there!

SON 1

I can't see it. Let's open the window.

BOYS ATTEMPT TO OPEN WINDOW

FATHER

Hey, hey, you better not open that window. Its 30 degrees outside.

MOTHER

Come on boys, take off your costumes and
get ready for bed. Santa Claus is
coming tonight!

BOYS EXIT - RUSH UPSTAIRS TALKING ABOUT WHAT SANTA IS
GOING TO BRING THEM.

FATHER

(To Wife) Santa...really?

MOTHER

Hush! Let them have their fun.

MOTHER SITS DOWN ON THE SOFA AND TAKES OFF HER SHOES TO
SETTLE IN.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Wasn't that a great play? I just love
seeing the Christmas story re-enacted.
The baby Jesus lying in a manger; the
Shepherds and Wise Men coming to worship
the newborn King.

FATHER

(Grumpy) It was a long play, and I was
hungry. They could have fed us.

FATHER WALKS INTO THE KITCHEN TO PREPARE A SANDWICH

MOTHER

It was a Christmas Play, not a Christmas
Dinner!

FATHER

They have that same old play every year.
Now our boys believe in Shining Stars
and Santa.

MOTHER

Now Kevin, you know that's not the same.

FATHER RETURNS WITH A SANDWICH AND A BOTTLE OF DIET COKE

FATHER

Sure it is. C'mon now, you don't believe all that Christmas stuff, do you?

MOTHER

(Defensive) I certainly do believe in the birth of Christ!

FATHER

(Calms her down) No, I'm not talking about the birth. I'm talking about all that other stuff.

MOTHER

Like what!?

FATHER

You know, (dramatic) an Angel coming from Heaven to speak to the Shepherd Men, A big shining star in the sky; the Wise Men walking hundreds of miles to find a baby child. C'mon, it's all a lot of hype to embellish the birth of Christ.

MOTHER

Father, I'm not getting into an argument with you tonight. You're not going to dampen my Spirit.

FATHER

Well, what proof do you have that any of that stuff really happened?

MOTHER (O.S.)

God said it...I believe it...and that settles it!

MOTHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(Grabs her shoes) You can stay down here with your sandwich...I'm going to bed.

MOTHER PROCEEDS TO EXIT UPSTAIRS

FATHER

(Fires back) Well...at least my bologna sandwich is real! (Takes a bite).

FATHER SITS DOWN ON THE SOFA

(Talking to himself) People will believe anything. "An Angel leaves Heaven to tell dirty smelly Shepherders a Savior is born. (Laughing) C'mon, I would have written the Angel went to the Emperor of Rome or the Pharaoh of Egypt. Shepherders weren't even worthy of a visit from an Angel.

SFX - DOOR BELL RINGS

FATHER CONTINUES TO MUSE ABOUT HOW CRAZY THE STORY IS AS HE GOES TO OPEN THE DOOR.

A WOMAN, WEARING A WHITE DRESS, WHITE SCARF, AND A LARGE BRIM WHITE HAT IS STANDING AT THE DOOR.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Hello

ANGEL

Hello Kevin, may I come in?

FATHER

Sure, c'mon in.

ANGEL ENTERS

FATHER (CONT'D)

You must be a member of the church. We enjoyed the play, however my wife just went upstairs to go to bed.

ANGEL

Oh, I'm not here for your wife. I'm
here for you.

FATHER

Me! Well, who are you?

ANGEL

I'm the Angel whom God sent to proclaim
the birth of Christ to the Shepherds
over 2000 years ago.

FATHER PAUSES FOR A MOMENT, THEN BURSTS INTO LAUGHTER.

FATHER

Yeah, right. (Looking around) Am I
being "Punked". Did my wife put you up
to this? Where are the cameras?

ANGEL

No, you're not being "Punked". God
heard you doubting the events
surrounding the birth of Jesus, so He
sent me here to speak to you.

- End of Preview -

Find out what the Angel has to say to Kevin and how it changes
Kevin's understanding of the Shepherds praise.
