Mary and Luke

CHARACTERS: 2
COSTUMES: Biblical
SETTING: A room
RUN TIME: 4 minutes
FK reading level: 4.5

At rise: MARY is sitting, humming, sewing. LUKE enters quietly and clears his throat to get her attention. She turns and smiles.

LUKE: *(bowing low before her)* Thank you for agreeing to see me.

MARY: *(standing with the slight difficulty of old age)* Stand! Stand. *(MARY embraces LUKE)* Of course I want to see you, Luke. How are you.

LUKE: *(light heartedly)* Well. It would be bad for business if a doctor was anything but.

MARY: *(concerned)* How is Paul?

LUKE: *(serious)* Still in jail, I'm afraid. *(MARY starts to sit and LUKE assists her, then sits himself, he lightens his tone a bit, trying to joke)* Whether it be Jews or Romans or the silversmiths in Ephesus, Paul manages to get arrested about as often as most people have dinner. *(pause then gravely)* I think they will execute him this time.

MARY: *(nodding)* My son said we would be persecuted when we shared what we believed.

LUKE: That's why I wanted to talk to you. The eyewitnesses, well, many are dead – some from old age, some from execution. We need an orderly account of the things that have been fulfilled among us. A written account that can be passed on. I have investigated from the time of John's preaching, through the resurrection, the history of the believers but I want to know about his birth. From an eyewitness.

MARY: We need to start before the birth.

LUKE: Of course. *(getting ready to write)* What happened?

MARY: I was pledged to be married to a man named Joseph. An angel startled me one day while I sewed on my wedding garments. I will never forget how he addressed me. He said "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

LUKE: How did you react to seeing an angel, hearing those words?

MARY: I was concerned to say the least and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel comforted me immediately telling me not to fear.

"You have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the

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throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

LUKE: I imagine you were thrilled at the prospect of giving birth to the future king, the Prince of Peace.

MARY: Actually, I was more focused on the immediate. I was a virgin pledged to a common carpenter, not a royal or even a nobleman. To break an engagement would be highly unusual. But unusual things were happening. My cousin Elizabeth, an old woman, was having a baby.

LUKE: Highly unusual. Having traveled with Paul, I have come to know Jewish law. Were you worried they would stone you for adultery?

MARY: My parents were. Joseph planned to quietly divorce me when he first heard. But I'm jumping ahead. You wanted an orderly account so let's go in order.

LUKE: What happened next?

MARY: The angel told me the Holy Spirit and the power of the Most High would overshadow me so that the child, a holy child, would be called the Son of God. For nothing is impossible with God.

LUKE: Amen. Then you visited Elizabeth?

MARY: Yes. And returned home.

LUKE: Matthew told me Joseph also had been visited by an angel *(MARY nods)* he took you as his wife *(MARY nods)* and took you to Bethlehem for the census that Caesar Augustus ordered. *(MARY nods)* Did you stay with family in Bethlehem?

MARY: No. The town was filled and overflowing. Jesus was born in a stable. I wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for us.

LUKE: Sounds like some of the places Paul and I have had to stay, but we never had a newborn with us. Didn't you wonder what a strange turn of events this was?

MARY: No. Jesus had to fulfill prophesy and be born in Bethlehem. I was and still the Lord's servant, be it a barn or an upper room or here. I am not the one who mattered, it was always about Jesus. When you write your account, Luke, make sure it is about him. Tell the world.

LUKE: I will. *(more softly, taking her hand)* I will.

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