

“He Could Have Said No”

by
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What Even though things were hectic and crowded, the innkeeper said, "Yes" when he showed Mary and Joseph to the unprepared stable. This Christmas monologue reminds us that we can say, "Yes" to Jesus, no matter how hectic and unprepared our lives seem.

Themes: Christmas, Monologue, Innkeeper, Called

Who Actor

When The afternoon before the night Jesus was born.

Wear (Props) You have options. This can be presented barebones, with everything left to the audience's imagination, or it could be performed in a complete stable set, or anything in between.

The Actor should be dressed casually, in contemporary clothes. He is outside of time.

Why Luke 2:7

How This calls for your best actor. The actor should be able to paint the picture of the place with his or her words, then transition to connecting with the heart of the audience in the final part.

Time Approximately 5 minutes

Actor enters and addresses the audience.

Actor: Welcome to the stable. You're here early, but that's alright. In a few hours, it's going to be a little crowded in here.

Did you have any trouble finding the place? That street out there is a little narrow, and I know there's a lot of people in town, thanks to the census. And seeing how there's not that many places for visitors to stay, the streets around this inn have been especially full of people recently.

Just through that door, you'll find the innkeeper's family hurrying about preparing for the night's guests. But it's quiet in here. The cow and the chickens are getting their exercise in the courtyard, and the visitors from Nazareth haven't arrived yet with their donkey.

There's a nice high window there that opens to the courtyard, and one just over here that opens onto a side street. Gotta have some ventilation, you know. But later, if you happen to be looking through that one, you might see an unusually bright light in the sky over a field just outside of town.

Over there in the corner are sacks of chicken feed. Not long from now, a scared husband will rearrange those sacks to provide a somewhat comfortable place for his very pregnant wife to sit. She'll end up doing a lot more than that, though. To the surprise of everyone—not least the innkeeper—she'll give birth to a baby boy right here in this room.

Beside the bags of feed are bales of hay for the larger animals. By the time that young couple arrives a few hours from now, weary from traveling, the innkeeper's oldest son will have broken up one of those bales and put some right here...in this thing against the wall. Take a good look, folks. This is the piece that people will write songs about. The manger. Just a few rough boards nailed together. Didn't take a great carpenter to build it. In fact, the innkeeper himself threw this one together with some rough iron nails and some scraps of wood left over from the extra room they built a few years ago.

But in a few hours...a tired young mother will wrap the most important Newborn in human history in a cloth and lay him down here so she can get some rest, too.

Doesn't look like much. Doesn't look like it's ready for such an important task. And heaven knows the city out there isn't prepared. It's in political upheaval, and the religion of the Jews is being used as a weapon by both the Jewish leaders and the Roman authorities.

The world is not ready. This room is not prepared to be a maternity ward. Mary and Joseph know that something special is about to

happen, but even they can't really be ready for what is to come. But nevertheless, in a few hours, God will be born as a baby, right here.

Not too long from now, Joseph and Mary will knock on the door out front and ask for a room. The innkeeper will explain that the guest areas are all full. Joseph's shoulders will slump, and he'll turn to leave...but there is his exhausted young wife, as pregnant as a woman can be.

The innkeeper will see those drooped shoulders and the worried look on the faces of the couple outside his door. He'll watch Joseph turn back to him and ask, "Isn't there any place at all we can rest?"

And then I imagine the innkeeper saying one of the most important words in history.

He says "yes".

Now this innkeeper has a reputation for turning them away, but the opposite is true. Though he was fully booked, and the one empty spot wasn't at all prepared, he opened the door.

That's all it took.

He wasn't expecting them. He wasn't ready. This stable wasn't prepared for people.

But he let them in.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

We're not so different from that innkeeper, you and I. It's Christmas, and we're busy and stressed. But that's not only true at Christmas. Year round, it seems our lives are full...crowded...hectic.

Right?

But listen closely: one of the many bits of good news of Jesus' coming into our world is that He didn't wait for it to be ready.

All he asked for was a "yes".

When the angel appeared to Mary and told her she would have a baby even though she didn't feel the least bit prepared, she said, "yes." When the angel showed up at Joseph's house and told him to go ahead and wed Mary, he said, "yes." Through our eyes, they were unconventional choices. But God saw something more.

Do you think maybe God saw something more in the innkeeper, too? Because when the innkeeper had the opportunity to say "no" ...he said "yes."

Jesus doesn't need you to be ready for Him. He just wants you to open the door and say "yes".

I don't know what the unprepared stable looks like in your life. But I know this: Jesus is ready to bring a miracle out of that empty place.

The world was changed because the innkeeper said "yes" and opened the door.

So...what do you think? Can it happen in the world you and I share?

Can it happen in your life?

Can it happen in mine?

Yes.

Absolutely, yes.