

A script from



“Listen! A Shepherd's Testimony: Ensemble Version”

by
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- What** The next morning after the Nativity, three young shepherds tell the throng in Bethlehem about the miracle they have witnessed, an event that will change the world forever (based on Luke 2:17-18). **Themes:** Christmas, Comedy, Drama, Jesus, Love, Forgiveness, Salvation, Evangelism, God, Nativity
- Who** Elyasha (older teen to 20s) – A first century shepherd and poet
Maryam (younger teen) – His brash, enthusiastic sister
Kishi (pre-teen to young teen) – Their playful, mute little brother
- When** The morning after the birth of Christ
- Wear (Props)** Shepherd's robes and staffs are a plus, but not required.
- Why** Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2, Luke 2:8-18
- How** Sibling digs aside, these three like one another, and are excited about what has occurred. Maryam's interruptions and Kishi's pantomimes should support, not distract from, what Elyasha is saying. ***Names and pronunciations:*** Elyasha (EL-YAH-shuh), Kishi (KEE-shee), Yacob (YAH-kohb), Abab (ah-BAHB), and Yephtha (YEF-thah). Maryam (MAHR-ee-yahm) and Yuseph (YOO-sef) are the Hebrew pronunciations of the names Mary and Joseph.
- Time** Approximately 5-6 minutes

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Intro: *(May be read aloud by announcer or shown on-screen)* It's early morning at the marketplace in the bustling sheep-trading center of Bethlehem Ephrata, 2,100 years ago, when three young shepherds suddenly bursts into the square...

Elyasha: Listen, men of Bethlehem. My name is Elyasha, Elyasha ben Hazael—

Maryam: And I am his sister, Maryam—

Elyasha: *(Rolls his eyes)*—who does not understand how a girl should behave.

Maryam: *(Unfazed)* That's our little brother, Kishi. He doesn't speak.

Kishi grins, a stalk of grain between his teeth, and does a little bow.

Elyasha: And I have come—

Maryam: We have come—

Elyasha: We have come—

Maryam: No, not to sell sheep, ben Yacob. For once in our lives we haven't come to the marketplace to sell sheep. We have come—

Elyasha: —to talk. Yes, yes, and I know some of you are thinking—

Maryam: "He's got his sheep. Let him talk to them."

Elyasha: *(Glares at Maryam, then)* But listen, a miracle has happened! Sheep do not need miracles. People need miracles. And God has given us one!

Kishi mimes his reaction to a miracle. Elyasha shoots him and Maryam a look. Both gesture for him to go on.

Elyasha: I make poems and songs, so the other shepherds have chosen me to tell you. What? No, this is not "a shepherd's wagging tale," ben Yacob.

Maryam: *(Supporting her brother)* And that's a bad joke!

Elyasha: This is as real as a Sabbath sun. Abab saw it, and Daniel, and Yephthah—

Maryam: And even Yephthah the Elder.

Kishi pantomimes ancient Yephthah the Elder.

Elyasha: Listen, we have heard the teachers, and everyone who loves the Law treasures the word that Immanuel, "God with us," will come. Now I am no rabbi, but today the scroll is in my hand, for today that word is fulfilled!

Kishi reverently pantomimes the sacred scroll. Maryam encourages Elyasha to go on.

Elyasha: *(Continuing)* Last night, my sister and brother and I were tending flock. Maryam was fetching water, olives, and barley bread to make our dinner.

Maryam: *(With a sneer)* A "girl's job."

Kishi acts out the following as Elyasha describes it.

Elyasha: Our little ewe sheep Ayallah had gone into a thicket running away from a fox, and Kishi was calming her and pulling milk thistles from her coat when Maryam suddenly ran back, pointing upward.

Maryam: It was like a tear in the sky!

Elyasha: As though night were only a blanket, and noonday were just outside. All of the shepherds saw it. We were shouting—

Maryam: "Look! Look!"

Elyasha: And then suddenly before us there stood a man clothed in...in...

Maryam: In light!

Elyasha: He was greater in stature than anyone I have ever seen, and the glory of God shone so brightly about him that we were all afraid and fell on the ground.

Kishi does this.

Elyasha: *(Continuing)* I couldn't even think of any of the songs I had composed for just such an occasion.

Approximately one page has been omitted from this preview. To read the rest of this script and perform it, download the full version at SkitGuys.com!

ENDING:

Elyasha: Listen, men of Israel.

Maryam: Listen!

Elyasha: The Christ, the Messiah who will make all men free, has been born...here in Bethlehem! Listen, all of you. God has made a way for us. And in a way that I do not fully understand he has given us more than we have asked for, more than we have ever known we could ask. He has made a way, not to vanquish our enemies, sons of Zion, but a way to Himself.

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Maryam: For all people.

Elyasha: Just as we lead our sheep home each night, God came last night to lead us home. All of us.

Maryam: Listen!

Elyasha: God is with us.

Both: (*Kishi gestures along with them*) God is with us!

The end.