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“Not So Wise”

by
Katherine McMahon

- What** In this comedy, the three wise men go to a store looking for the perfect baby gift for the Messiah but can't seem to find something worthy of a King.
- Themes:** Christmas, Wise Men, Messiah, Gifts, Jesus, Baby
- Who** Alex
Mike
Mitch
Molly
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** For wise men, modern casual dress, or for a quirky twist, clothes from Biblical times that will stand out in a modern setting. Black clothing or uniform-like attire for Molly.
- The setting is a baby store, with shelving and a few products, including a pink bear, and at least one obscure item that some wouldn't recognize (eg. vaporizer, electric bottle sterilizer, Diaper Genie, etc).
- Why** Matthew 2:1-12
- How** Work on a natural, comedic timing between the four characters/performers. Shift the mood towards the end as Alex reflects on the pressure of finding the perfect gift and give the audience a moment to reflect before snapping straight back into the comedy.
- Time** Approximately 4 minutes

Three men—Alex, Mike, and Mitch— walk into a store containing baby's clothing, toys, accessories, etc.

Alex: Alright, boys. Remind me again why we're the ones who have to get the gifts for the baby.

Mike: Because my wife said it'd be good practice for me.

Mitch: Practice for what?

Mike: Yeah, I'm still trying to figure that one out.

Alex: Alright, so what are our parameters here? Do we have a budget?

Mike: No budget. The baby is going to be a king, remember? So it's gotta be something pretty good.

Alex: No, no, the baby's not *going* to be a king. He's a king already.

Mitch: *(concerned)* I'd better check my credit card balance.

Mike: And something pretty lightweight. That star we're following looks pretty far away and we didn't get extra baggage allowance.

Mitch: Hey come on, we're three pretty wise men. I'm sure we'll figure something out.

Alex: Alright, well, a quick buy's a good buy. So let's get this gift and get out.

Mike and Mitch: Right.

The three men begin to move but stop when they realize they have no idea where they're going or what they're looking for. They look around the shop, dumbfounded. Alex picks up a random, odd shaped object and inspects it.

Alex: Well, this one looks...useful.

Mitch picks up a fluffy, pink teddy bear.

Mitch: Oh, you guys, look! It's so fluffy!

Alex and Mike look at Mitch and then at each other, then choose to ignore him.

Mike: *(referring to Alex's object)* What do you think it's for?

Alex: Well, this must be for the...no, that can't be right.

Mike: Maybe that end goes in the...hmm. Nope.

Alex throws the object behind his shoulder.

Alex: Moving on.

*A woman, **Molly**, who works at the store enters and approaches the three men.*

Molly: Can I help you with anything here?

Mitch: *(still holding the pink bear)* Nope. We'll take this one.

Mike: Dude, the baby's gonna be a boy.

Mitch: That's sexist.

Mike: *(to **Molly**)* We need a good present for a baby boy.

Molly: One of yours?

Mike: Ha. No. None of ours.

Molly: Oh, okay. For a friend then? Or a relative?

Mike: Well, no. We haven't actually met them. He's kind of a big deal though. There was a prophecy and then a star—

Alex: It's okay, guys. I came prepared for this.

Alex withdraws a piece of paper from his pocket.

Alex: I came up with a list of the most useful baby presents I could think of.

Mike: Good thinking.

Molly: Excellent. What do you need?

Alex: Alright. Well, what about a jumpsuit...

Molly: We have a huge range of—

Alex: ...that doubles as a mop.

Mike: What?

Alex: So when the baby crawls on the ground, it's also mopping the floor.

Mike: You can't be serious! That's...actually very clever. *(To **Molly**)* Do those exist?

Molly: Um. We don't stock anything like that. What else do you have?

Alex: Okay, do you have baby wigs?

Molly: As in wigs for babies?

Alex: Yeah. Well, babies are mostly born bald. Just chuck a baby wig on it and voila! Model baby.

Molly: Right. What else you got?

Alex: A diaper with an alarm that goes off when the baby...does his business.

Mike: No.

Alex: Reusable baby wipes.

Mitch: Gross.

Alex: Bacon flavored formula.

Molly: No.

Alex: A pacifier that says, "Mute Button."

Mitch, Mike, Molly: No!

Alex: Come on, guys. That one would be hilarious.

Mitch and Mike actually concede, shrugging and nodding.

Mike: Hilarious is not exactly what we're going for here. What else is on there?

Alex: That's it.

Mike: That's it?

Alex: Hey, it's a lot of pressure, okay? I've never bought a gift for a Messiah before.

Molly: A what?

Alex: Look, this baby isn't just any king. He's going to change the world. We need a gift that honors Him. And I know these ideas... *(holds up paper with list)* ...are silly. But I racked my brain, I really did. And nothing I could come up with was even remotely worthy of who He is and the impact He's going to have.

Mitch and Mike agree in a thoughtful moment.

Molly: *(breaking the moment)* In that case, might I recommend our top of the line bottle warmer?

Mike: Yeah, I don't think that's going to cut it.

Molly: Why don't you just get your wives to come in and take a look? Maybe they'll have a bit more success.

Alex and Mitch: I'm not married.

Molly: *(sarcastically)* Shocking.

Mike: My wife said this would be good practice for me.

Molly: Oh, is she pregnant?

Mike: Pfft. No, she's not pregnant. *(Pause; eyes widen with realization)* My wife...pregnant...is she? *(Considers for a moment)* Is she? *(Backs towards door)* I just...have to go make a phone call. And leave. I have to leave. Have fun, boys.

Mike exits in a hurry.

Mitch: Well, I guess that settles it then.

Mitch holds up the fluffy, pink bear.

Alex: We're not getting the bear!

Alex grabs Mitch and shoves him toward the exit.

Mitch: But it's so fluffy!

Alex: Nope. But do you know anywhere that sells frankincense?

Alex exits and, as Mitch approaches the exit, he turns back to Molly, still holding the bear. He puts it on the shelf.

Mitch: *(mouths/whispers loudly)* I'll be back for this.

Lights down.