

“The Night That Changed Everything”

by
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What This humorous Christmas sketch features the innkeepers who reminisce about a special, life-changing event.

Themes: Christmas, Innkeeper, Marriage, Peace, Comedy

Who Morty the Innkeeper
Ruthie his wife
*They are middle-aged or elderly couple

When Present

Costumes and Props Morty and Ruthie are dressed up for an interview at Christmas time. She might be wearing a Christmas sweater and long skirt. He might be in a sweater vest or suspenders and nice slacks.
Sofa

Why Luke 2:6-7

How The scene plays out with Morty and Ruthie sitting side by side on a sofa as though being interviewed on camera. (Think: “When Harry Met Sally”) While they look at one another occasionally, the focus mostly remains on the unseen camera and interviewer (through the 4th wall).

Time Approximately 3 minutes

Lights come up on **Morty** and **Ruthie**, sitting on the sofa. She brushes his hair back and he checks her microphone placement. Then, recognizing that the unseen interviewer is ready for them, they turn forward together and begin their story.

Morty: We almost didn't make it.

Ruthie: That's true; I had my bags packed. I was all set to go live with my sister in Bethel. Remember, Morty?

Morty: Of course I remember. I'm the one who brought it up!

Ruthie: We used to fight a lot.

Morty: Used to.

Ruthie: But that was before the miracle happened—the night that changed everything.

Morty: That was the night when I realized we could get through anything if we worked together.

Ruthie: I think that was the night I first fell in love with Morty.

Morty: I love you too, Sweetheart.

Ruthie: And now we never fight at all.

Morty: No, never fight.

Ruthie: We never argue either.

Morty: No... hardly ever.

Ruthie: Who would have guessed that the birth of a baby in our barn could make such an impact?

Morty: You've got to remember, it was a hard time back then. The village was chaotic and over-crowded...

Ruthie: *(interrupting)* Everyone came back to Bethlehem for the census; Cousin Hiram's family was camping on our roof!

Morty: Every time you turned around it seemed like some Roman soldier or tax collector was shaking you down again for your shekels.

Ruthie: Oh, and remember all of the cheating and stealing going on in the marketplace?

Morty: It was a very dark time.

Ruthie: Remember how you used to get so angry? Once, Morty slammed his fist down so hard on the table it...

Morty: *(interrupting)* It was a VERY DARK TIME.

Ruthie: *(brief pause as she pats his arm, assuring him all is ok)* And then the couple came...

Morty: I don't even know why I answered the door, there was no room at our inn.

Ruthie: You said the man sounded so urgent.

Morty: Well, he was!

Ruthie: I came to the door too, to see what was up. Oh Morty, didn't you feel sorry for the poor man's wife? She was pregnant out to here and ready to pop!

Morty: They looked so young, what could I do?

Ruthie: You did absolutely the right thing, Morty. He let them stay in our barn.

Morty: And my Ruthie was a champ. She brought them blankets and candles, and she helped the woman get as comfortable as possible during her labor.

Ruthie: She was just a child. She needed a mother figure that night.

Morty: And then the child became a mother herself.

Ruthie: They were beautiful, you know? Full of hope with the promise a new life brings?

Morty: They gave him the name, Jesus, *the One who saves His people*. And maybe for the first time I could believe the Almighty was directing all of this somehow.

Ruthie: That precious little family reminded us...that even in the hardest times, everything is going to be ok...because God is With Us!

Morty: And then the strangest things started happening. Suddenly there was this giant star in the sky, and then these shepherds came out of the nearby hills to see the baby; even the barn animals grew real quiet ...

Ruthie: I looked at Morty, and maybe for the first time, I saw what a tender heart he had.

Morty: I can't explain it exactly but all the...darkness, all the bad feelings inside of me seemed to disappear in that moment.

Ruthie: Morty...

Morty: What?

Ruthie: *(directly to Morty)* I was telling them about how I came to fall in love with you that night.

Morty: *(he looks at Ruthie, taking her hand in his)* And I love you, Sweetheart.

Ruthie: *(looking back out front to the camera)* That was it. The miracle in our barn that saved us.

Morty: Truly. That was the night that changed everything.

A pause as they contentedly sit holding hands.

Ruthie: I wonder whatever happened to that little guy?