

“The Narrated Nativity” script sample #01

written by Frederick Passmore, based on the Gospels

Actions during the next part of the narration: *The angel Gabriel comes into the room behind Mary without her knowing it. He speaks, startling her, and she spins around to look at him with shock.*

Narrator: Now, when the supernatural suddenly intrudes on your life, it can be a downright terrifying experience. And when Mary heard the words, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you!" let me tell you, she was shocked and scared. Turning to see who was speaking, Mary was frightened by this stranger who had suddenly appeared in her room. And as he continued by saying "blessed are you among women," although the words were kind and reassuring, comforted was not a word she would have chosen to describe her emotions at that moment. Sensing that this was an angelic visitation and not merely a human intruder bent on harming her, Mary was still greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. Even the most comforting words, when spoken by an unexpected Heavenly visitor, can be unnerving. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God."

Actions: *Mary, shielding her eyes at first, drops to a kneeling position on the floor looking up at the angel.*

Narrator: His words, sinking in, at least calmed the fears that naturally come with a confrontation with a messenger from God himself. And as she sank to her knees, overcome with the power and glory that accompanies a being straight from the Throne, the angel nevertheless added to her perplexed state of mind with his next statement. "You will be with child and give birth to a son," he told her, "and you are to give him the name Jesus." This simple statement, delivered under the unusual circumstances by this most unusual person, was enough to puzzle anyone, but even more so one that was yet to be married. But the most amazing words were still to come, as the angel continued, "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

Actions: Mary slips down to a seated position, her legs under her, as this news overwhelms her. She looks thoughtful as she considers it all.

It's safe to say that no woman in the history of the world had ever had such a momentous announcement made to her... her child was to be the son of God, the prophesied Messiah that would rule upon David's throne, forever! With the weight of this incredible privilege and responsibility laid upon her, the one simple question that came to her mind was the down-to-earth practicality of such an event.

"How can this be," Mary replied, "seeing that I have no husband?"

The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

While some women might have run screaming from the room when confronted with such words, Mary was humbled and honored. But perfectly natural questions began to surface in her mind. What would her family, and her fiancée, think about her being with child before she was married? Would anyone believe her story? It seemed quite unbelievable even to her.

But the angel wasn't finished. He informed her that her relative, Elizabeth, had conceived a son in her old age. She who was said to be barren was in her sixth month. Mary was not alone in her sudden emergence into the world of miracles; and if such a miracle had already happened for Elizabeth, then she could be certain that her miracle would occur just as surely.

As if knowing her thoughts, the angel looked on her kindly with a smile. "Nothing," he assured her, "is impossible with respect to any of God's promises."

As these words kindled a fire in her heart, Mary found a deeper faith in God... a faith that was more than merely a hopeful wish that things would turn out well. If God had selected her from among all the maidens in the nation of Israel for this singular role, surely He would work out all the problems it could present. So, she accepted it bravely, and spoke the words that we even now honor her for.

Looking at the angel with a peaceful expression, Mary said, "Truly I am the Lord's servant. Let everything you have said happen to me." Pleased with her response, the angel nodded in acknowledgment.