

THE COMING

An Original Stageplay

Written by

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SCENE 1

Blind Zachariah stumbles unto the stage. He walks DSC and stops a few inches short of the edge of the stage.

He turns his nose up and inhales deeply.

ZACHARIAH: Beautiful day, isn't it?

Silence.

Zachariah tosses his head left and right, grabbing the air with both hands.

ZACHARIAH: Lizbeth...

Silence

ZACHARIAH: LIZBETH!!

ELIZABETH (O.S.): Yes Zachy.

Elizabeth walks onstage carrying a mixing bowl.

ELIZABETH: Can't you see that...*[realizing]* I'm busy right now, Zachy.

ZACHARIAH: Boy. From you get pregnant you get real miserable, especially when It regards me.

ELIZABETH *[under her breathe]*: You did the damage.

ZACHARIAH: Excuse me.

ELIZABETH: What is it you want, dear?

ZACHARIAH: I want to spend some quiet time with my wife. Is that asking too much?

ELIZABETH: Quiet time doing what, Zachy?

ZACHARIAH: For starters we could just lie here and look up at the stars.

ELIZABETH *[under her breathe]*: How's that going to profit you?

ZACHARIAH: Excuse me.

ELIZABETH: It's almost dinnertime.

ZACHARIAH: Oh, well in that case, go, tarry no more. Just let me know when the audience gets here.

Elizabeth looks out at the audience. She shakes her head.

ELIZABETH: They're here.

ZACHARIAH [*stunned*]: A lie!

ELIZABETH: They're right there staring back at you.

ZACHARIAH: Juice! I never saw when they came in.

ELIZABETH: You pretty much can't see anything from the other day, dear.

ZACHARIAH: Don't bright! Now go make yourself useful around the back. I'm busy Right now.

[Elizabeth almost clobbers him with the mixing dish, but she knows better. She turns and exits.

Zachariah straightens himself and walks to the edge of the stage.]

ZACHARIAH: Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls and everyone else...I'm pleased To introduce our Dramatic Presentation for tonight. [*slight pause*] Each year, to commemorate the birth of our Savior, we re-visit the time of His birth and the circumstances surrounding that period of fulfilled prophecy. Tonight, we bring that time to you in the context of a wider truth...the truth That if it were not for Christ many of us would not be here tonight. So without any further ado...

Zachariah snaps his fingers and the lights go out.

A few bumps is heard on-stage and then a loud crash as Zachariah makes his exit.

ZACHARIAH VOICE: LIZBETH!!!

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP

Man and Woman enter. The woman clings to the man as they mime having Close relations.

VOICE: A world once existed beyond the limits of our imaginations.

Man and woman stop. They face each other giggling and laughing and just enjoying each other's company.

VOICE: A world of Laws and Commandments. A world of unseen rewards and deadly Consequences, a world where the only righteousness known to man is total Faith in God.

Man and Woman continue walking until they reach CS.

VOICE: And the wages of sin...

Man becomes distracted by something in the distant. He looks out above the Audience. The woman follows his gaze and their facial expression slowly Changes to fear.

VOICE: Is death!

Crowd rush in from all directions towards CS carrying stones.

CROWD [yells]: Adulteress!!!!

They push the man aside and stone the woman to death.

A cell phone rings. One of the members pull the cell phone from his pocket and presses it to his ear.

MEMBER: Yow!

He listens.

MEMBER [his expression brightens]: No kidding. [hangs up]

OTHER MEMBERS: What?

MEMBER: They caught two more a few blocks up the road.

CROWD: Yeah..ur,ur,ur,ur!

Crowd disperses off-stage. The man slowly approaches the body of the motionless Woman. He kneels beside her body weeping. He picks her up and carries her offstage.

LIGHTS OUT

VOICE: Animals were fast becoming an endangered specie.

SCENE 3

LIGHTS UP

Another woman sits at DSC reading a book. She checks the time and sighs.

Another man enters and upon seeing her he runs offstage and we hear the sound Of a loud chop.

MAN (O.S): Father, forgive me for lusting.

The man returns and walks over to the woman. She is not pleased.

VOICE: Man's hope diminishes by the second.

WOMAN: You're one hour late, again. Where have you been?

MAN: I...uhh, got caught in traffic.

Realizing, the man slaps his forehead and runs offstage again. Another loud chop.

MAN (O.S.): Father, forgive me for lying.

VOICE: Salvation, a distant dream.

The man returns, but continues back and forth for the rest of the scene.

VOICE: By one man's disobedience, sin entered into this world. Slowly, we were being Consumed by the sinful nature lodged within our beings.

Scene freezes.

VOICE: It was a period in our history, where blood sacrifices was the only atonement
For sin.

LIGHTS OUT

VOICE: But somewhere, far away, beyond the furthest reaches of our minds...man's
Redemption was about to be realized.

SCENE 4

LIGHTS UP

Two angels converse at the edge of the stage.

ANGEL ONE: Very soon there will be no more animals to sacrifice.

ANGEL TWO: And man's soul will be damned for all eternity.

GOD (O.S.): That must not happen.

ANGEL ONE [*looks offstage in the direction of God's voice and gestures to the
Audience*]: Look at them, Father. They can hardly control themselves.

GOD (O.S.): Someone will have to go.

ANGEL TWO (*sadly*): But who? Who will go?

GOD (O.S.): Only one is qualified for such a sacrifice.

ANGELS [*looking at each other*]: Only one?

Long silence.

Jesus enters; he walks to center stage. The angels acknowledge Him and bows.

JESUS: I will go.

Jesus passes between them and exits down the aisle.

*ENTER THREE WISE MEN bearing gifts. They stop and point towards the east,
then makes their exit down the aisle.*

ENTER THREE SHEPHERDS. They stop and look around seemingly lost. One Of them pulls a map from his pocket and opens it up for them to see. They stare At the map turning it this way and that, but it offers no answers.

Angel One appears and points them to the star in the east. They smile and exit Joyfully.

ENTER BLIND BARTIMEUS who trips and falls and DOUBTING THOMAS, Who makes no attempt to help his fallen comrade. They are with the HBI (Herod's Bureau of Investigations) and they carry a sword on their belt and a badge around their necks.

Bartimeus jumps to his feet.

THOMAS: I don't like the looks of this.

BARTIMEUS: What do you mean?

THOMAS (*gesturing to the east*): Can't you see..*[realizing]*..look over...*[realizing]*.. Never mind (*under his breathe*) Blind fool.

BARTIMEUS: I may be blind, but I'm not deaf and I'm certainly not a fool.

THOMAS: Whatever.

BARTIMEUS (*Outraged. Points in the wrong direction thinking he's addressing Thomas face to face*): I keep warning you about that same thing and you keep on Doing it.

THOMAS: Doing what?

Bartimeus realizes he's pointing in the wrong direction. He re-directs his finger But he's still a bit off.

BARTIMEUS: You know I hate it when people treat me like an idiot.

THOMAS: Do we have to have this conversation every single day?

Redirects his finger again.

BARTIMEUS: Until you stop taking advantage of me, YES!

THOMAS: Well forgive me for doubting that a Blind man can be a good detective.

BARTIMEUS: I'm as good a detective as any man is.

THOMAS: When you prove that, I'll believe.

BARTIMEUS: Fine.

THOMAS: Fine.

BARTIMEUS: FINE!

Silence.

BARTIMEUS: Where do we begin?

Thomas smiles.

THOMAS: That star in the East. It seems to be drawing a huge crowd.

BARTIMEUS: What star?

THOMAS: Can't you see...*[realizing]* It's there in the East.

BARTIMEUS: Maybe it's a planet.

THOMAS: I doubt that.

BARTIMEUS: What else could it be?

THOMAS: A sign, perhaps. The Jews believe that a Messiah will come.

BARTIMEUS: I've heard the prophecies.

THOMAS: That's why Herod is so nervous. The atmosphere has changed as if
Something big is brewing in the underworld.

BARTIMEUS: I can feel it.

THOMAS: Scholars have interpreted the ancient writings. They say that it was foretold
That a redeemer would come and save man from sin.

BARTIMEUS: Herod will not be pleased.

THOMAS: He never is. We better go see him and try to keep up, OK.

Thomas steps off leaving Bartimeus to find his way offstage.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 5

LIGHTS UP

Mary and Joseph enter. Joseph sees the Inn door up ahead and beckons for Mary to rest a while. He offers her a seat on a nearby rock.

Joseph approaches the door and knocks.

Silence.

He knocks again.

LESTER (O.S): We're full.

GRETEL (O.S): Lester.

JOSEPH: Please help us.

[The door opens and Lester walks out buttoning his shirt.]

LESTER: I'm sorry, but we're full.

JOSEPH: My wife is pregnant and she's on the verge of giving birth.

LESTER: By any chance, do you have a slight hearing problem.

JOSEPH: No sir.

LESTER: Ok. Let me try one more time...we're full.

JOSEPH: Sir, my wife is pregnant...

Lester throws his hand up in the air, steps back through the door and slams it In Joseph's face.

Mary hollers out in pain. Joseph runs to her side.

Sweat forms on Mary's forehead, she starts to take heavy breathes to ease the Contractions.

JOSEPH: We have to try another Inn.

MARY: I can't go any further, Joseph.

JOSEPH: It's just down...

Mary grabs Joseph's collar.

MARY: This baby is coming, now...Joseph.

Joseph is agitated. He's not sure what to do. He looks at the Inn door again and Runs up to it, knocking desperately over and over again.

This time Gretel walks out buttoning her blouse.

GRETEL: Yes.

JOSEPH: My wife is having a baby and we need your help.

Lester peeps out and is not pleased by the sight of the familiar face.

LESTER (*Loudly*): You're not from around here, are you?

JOSEPH: There's no need to shout sir.

Lester walks out standing between Gretel and Joseph.

LESTER: We're full. We have no room. No vacancy. No space. No...

JOSEPH: Anything will do at this point.

Pause

GRETEL: We have only a stable in the back.

JOSEPH (*defensive*): My wife can't give birth in an animal shed.

GRETEL: It's all we have, kind sir.