

The Trial of Mary: Mother of Jesus

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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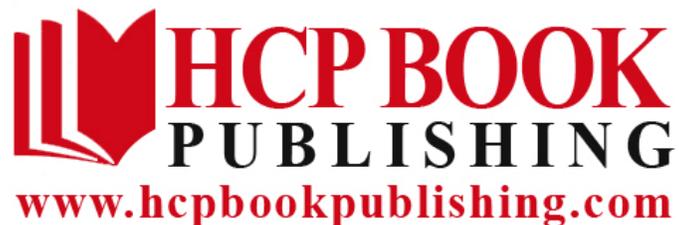


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Characters

Judge Serious	(Male)
Obnoxious Prosecutor	(Male)
Humble Defense	(Male)
Quiet Mary	(Female)
Cousin Elizabeth	(Female)
Doctor Willimeaner French	(Male)
Nervous Husband to be Joseph	(Male)
Baliff	(Male)

Setting

The entire play takes place in a Courtroom.

There's a High-Rise Seat for the Judge Up Stage; the Prosecutors Desk is Stage Right, slightly turned so the Prosecutor can sit behind the desk and have a clear view of the Judge and the audience; the Defense is Stage Left, with his desk also slightly turned. The Audience is both congregates, and jury and they will decide the Final Verdict.

The Story

It is the year 5 BC, and a young virgin discovers that she will be bearing God's Son - a conception that will take place without her having to - you know.

Though prophesied, though expected - life changes for everyone involved as Mary is brought before a Judge to answer to charges of Adultery and if found guilty she would be sentenced to death.

Enter Obnoxious Prosecutor. For him, this is the most ridiculous case he has ever been assigned to, and he makes sure everybody knows it. As a matter of fact, he calls only one witness.

Enter Defense. He believes in God and miracles and argues along that line.

What transpires is a series of events that will strengthen the faith of those who already believed - and change those who doubted or didn't have a clue as to what is going on.

This is a very simple, funny and witty play that was written in such a way that Kids can perform it (*many lines to memorize*); Teens can produce it, and Adults can have fun presenting it.

Play Details

Length: 45 Minutes

Cast: 5 Males, 2 Females, Plus Extras.

Audience: Children, Teens & Adults

Genre: Courtroom Drama

THE SCRIPT



SCENE I

LIGHTS UP

The Bailiff walks out and faces the audience.

BAILIFF: All rise.

Everyone in the audience should stand.

BAILIFF: Judge Serious presiding.

Judge Serious enters and takes his place at the high rise seat.

JUDGE: Everyone but the Defendant and Lawyers, please be seated.

Everyone else sits.

Judge looks through his files and glances up at Mary over his glasses.

JUDGE: Miss Mary, do you know why you are here?

MARY: Yes sir.

JUDGE: You'll be answering to charges of Adultery. Do you understand the seriousness of this offense?

MARY: Yes sir, I do.

JUDGE: And of these charges, how do you plea?

Judge takes a sip from his coffee.

MARY: Not guilty, Your Honour.

Judge chokes on the coffee. Recovering, he removes his glasses.

JUDGE: Really?

MARY: I have not committed any sin, sir.

Judge replaces his glasses.

JUDGE: Well then. Let this trial begin. You may be seated. Mr. Prosecutor, your opening arguments, please.

Prosecutor prepares himself and moves from around his desk.

PROSECUTOR: I think this whole gathering is hilarious, don't you Judge?

Prosecutor looks at the Judge for a response, but the Judge's expression remains neutral.

PROSECUTOR: Well, I do. For a virgin to be with child and deny doing what needs to be done in order to conceive; hilarious. (*laughs alone*) I think in all due fairness that this court should be adjourned and this little liar taken out back and stoned to death. (*looks to Judge*)

JUDGE: Motion noted, considered, and denied.

PROSECUTOR: Well, then. I think the case will speak for itself and as foolish as it feels to continue this poppy-show exhibition, I will humbly take my seat.

JUDGE: Before you humbly take your seat, Mr. Prosecutor, may I remind you that this is my courtroom and you will behave and speak accordingly, (*Prosecutor rolls his eyes*) and if you roll your eyes at me just one more time, you will spend some jail time for contempt. Do I make my self clear?

PROSECUTOR: Crystal.

Prosecutor takes his seat.

JUDGE: Will the Defense please present his opening arguments.

The Defense stands and straightens his jacket.

DEFENSE: Thank you, Your Honour. In addressing this courtroom, may I take you back a little to the time when our ancestors faced open waters with Pharaoh and his army in hot pursuit. What happened next? Yes, the Red Sea parted in two and millions crossed over on dry land, safe and in one piece. May I remind you how one man stood against a Philistine army, how 300 defeated millions, and I could cite many more examples just to prove to you this day that nothing is impossible with God and that's why we are really here; to put God's truth and ability once again to the test ---

Prosecutor jumps to his feet.

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honour.

JUDGE: On what grounds?

PROSECUTOR: The Defense is trying to twist the mind of this courtroom.

JUDGE: My mind is not twisted. Is yours?

PROSECUTOR: Yes, yes it is.

JUDGE: Over-ruled. *(To Defense)* Please continue.

DEFENSE: Thank you, Your Honour. In light of our past, what has happened to this young woman today should not shock us. God can do what He says He will do!

Defense pause, and takes his seat.

Judge completes writing his notes.

JUDGE: Okay then. Who wants to call the first witness?

Prosecutor stands.

PROSECUTOR: Your Honour, I call Doctor French to the stand.

Enter Dr. French. He goes to the podium and stands raising his right hand.

PROSECUTOR: Will you tell the truth?

DR. FRENCH: Aren't I supposed to hold a Bible or something?

JUDGE: Just answer the question. There will be no swearing in my court.

DR. FRENCH: Okay. Yes, I will tell the truth.

PROSECUTOR: The whole truth?

DR. FRENCH: Yes, the whole truth.

PROSECUTOR: And nothing but the truth?

DR. FRENCH: Why didn't you ask me all that one time?

JUDGE: Answer the question, sir.

DR. FRENCH: Yes, nothing but the truth.

PROSECUTOR: Good. Be seated, Doctor.

Dr. French sits.

PROSECUTOR: For the record, can you state your name, profession, and address.

DR. FRENCH: Dr. Willimeaner French, ah, I'm a Doctor, obviously, ah, Jerusalem Street.

PROSECUTOR: Good. Do you know why you are here?

DR. FRENCH: Not really, but, I had nothing to do with the death of that Salesman.

PROSECUTOR: What salesman?

DR. FRENCH: Okay, you don't know about that?

PROSECUTOR: No sir, anyway, Doctor, in your profession, have you ever in your whole life seen a virgin get pregnant.

Pause.

Longer pause.

DR. FRENCH: What? What kind of question is that?

JUDGE: Just answer the question.

DR. FRENCH: Your Honour, in all fairness, that is not a question. Who asks a question like that? I mean, not even my idiotic cousin would ask that. It's not even a statement.

Dr. French stands to leave.

DR. FRENCH: I'm embarrassed that such a question would even be poised to me. I don't need this right now.

JUDGE: Sit down.

DR. FRENCH: But, Your Honour ---

The Judge gives him a stern look, and he sits.

PROSECUTOR: Could you answer the question?

DR. FRENCH: No, to your less than stupid question. God, I feel so stupid answering that question. I'm easily annoyed so, please let your next questions at least be based on common sense.

PROSECUTOR: Do you know the defendant?

Dr. French looks across at Mary.

DR. FRENCH: No. I've never seen her before.

PROSECUTOR: Well, she wants this court to believe that somehow she has miraculously become pregnant without, you know.

DR. FRENCH: There's no way you can be pregnant without, you know.

PROSECUTOR: You sure about that, Doctor?

DR. FRENCH: I would bet my life and the life of my family on that.

PROSECUTOR: No further questions, Your Honour. *(to Defense)* All yours. *(smiles and sits)*

Defense stands.

DEFENSE: Doctor Willimeaner, do you believe in God?

DR. FRENCH: Who doesn't?

DEFENSE: Do you believe He can do the impossible?

DR. FRENCH: Maybe, sometimes --- I dunno.

DEFENSE: Do you believe in the prophecies?

DR. FRENCH: What prophecies?

DEFENSE: That one day a Messiah would come and save Israel?

Prosecutor jumps up.

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honour?

JUDGE: Over-ruled.

PROSECUTOR: You don't even want to know why I'm objecting?

JUDGE: *(without thinking)* No, sir.

Prosecutor sits.

DR. FRENCH: Save Israel from what?

DEFENSE: From themselves.

DR. FRENCH: What are you saying?

DEFENSE: I'm saying that the God who parted the Red Sea put a Baby in this young woman's stomach without, you know.

DR. FRENCH: Why would He do that? Humans are capable of making babies on their own.

DEFENSE: You would want our Messiah to come through natural causes?

DR. FRENCH: Well, yes, why not. We wouldn't be here in court now if He had done that.

DEFENSE: You believe He is here then?

DR. FRENCH: I didn't say that.

DEFENSE: But, you said ---

DR. FRENCH: Objection, Your Honour. The Defense is badgering me.

The Judge looks at the Doctor.

JUDGE: You know you can't object. Why don't you people just behave yourselves?

DR. FRENCH: Sorry.

DEFENSE: Just one final question, Doctor Willimeaner, is there any way you can check a young lady to see if she is, in fact, a virgin?

DR. FRENCH: *(losing all professionalism)* Oh yes. It's what I do. *(Smiles cheekily at Mary)*

Mary jumps up.

MARY: Objection, Your Honour.

Judge hangs his head and shakes it, laughing to himself.

JUDGE: Don't any of you'll watch TV? Miss Mary, only two people can object, and you are not one of them.

MARY: But, Your Honour ---

JUDGE: There will be no buts in my courtroom.

MARY: Your Honour, I don't want that pervert examining me. My body is for my husband.

JUDGE: Listen up. We'll leave the examining out for now, okay.

DEFENSE: But, Your Honour ---

JUDGE: My decision is final. *(hits his hammer)*

DEFENSE: No more questions.

JUDGE: The witness may step down.

Dr. French sighs and steps down.

JUDGE: Next witness.

PROSECUTOR: The Prosecution rest, for now.

The Judge acknowledges and looks to the Defense.

Defense stands.

DEFENSE: I call to the stand Mrs. Elizabeth Zachariah.

A very pregnant Elizabeth enters, and takes her place. Defense approaches her.

DEFENSE: Will you tell the truth?

ELIZABETH: Yes, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

DEFENSE: Good. You may sit.

Elizabeth sits.

DEFENSE: For the record, can you please state your name, age, and relation to the defendant.

ELIZABETH: My name is Elizabeth Zachariah, wife of Zachariah, I am 101 years old and the first cousin of the Defense.

DEFENSE: You mean Defendant?

ELIZABETH: Right.

DEFENSE: Good. Do you believe in miracles, Mrs. Zachariah, wife of Zachariah?

ELIZABETH: I sure do.

DEFENSE: On what grounds do you base your faith?

ELIZABETH: (*points to her belly*) I have my own miracle to show.

DEFENSE: Are you pregnant, Mrs. Zachariah?

Prosecutor jumps to his feet.

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honour. The witness' body fat is being undermined.

JUDGE: What?

PROSECUTOR: The Defense is asking a 101-year-old woman if she's pregnant. As if being fat isn't bad enough, but to be so seriously insulted, I object on behalf of the witness.

ELIZABETH: (*Gets in the face of the Prosecutor*) This is not fat you obnoxious chatter-box.

JUDGE: Order in my court. Order (*hits hammer a few times*) Objection over-ruled.

PROSECUTOR: What?

JUDGE: Sit down before you get yourself in trouble, young man. You too, Mrs. Zachariah.

Prosecution sits. Elizabeth sits.

The Judge nods at Defense to continue.

DEFENSE: Are you pregnant, ma'am?

ELIZABETH: Yes, I am.

PROSECUTOR: I don't believe this.

DEFENSE: Tell us how this happened.

ELIZABETH: You mean in details.

PROSECUTOR: Kill the visual, Lord.

DEFENSE: Well, you can leave the, you know, that part out.

ELIZABETH: Oh good. Well, I was visited by an Angel ---

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honour. We want facts, not fiction.

JUDGE: I'm really getting annoyed with you right now. Do you want to go to jail? If you do, I can oblige you.

PROSECUTOR: But, Your Honour ---

JUDGE: What did I say about butts?

PROSECUTOR: Your Honour, Angels, cmon. Its bad enough that I have to sit through this foolishness.

JUDGE: You will sit through it, and you will be quiet.

PROSECUTOR: Your honour ---

JUDGE: Consider this your last warning. One more peep out of you, and you will be spending the Passover in prison.

Prosecutor sits and zips his lip.

JUDGE: Now, where were we?

ELIZABETH: Yes sir, an Angel visited me and told me and my husband we were gonna have a child. Well, my husband didn't believe, but I knew in my heart that nothing was impossible with God.

DEFENSE: Your husband doubted?

ELIZABETH: Yes and we both are paying dearly for his unbelief.

DEFENSE: Explain.

ELIZABETH: You see, the angel struck him dumb saying he will not speak until the child is born.

DEFENSE: You said 'we' were paying dearly.

ELIZABETH: Oh yes. Now I have to be reading everything he wants to say, and my husband talks a whole lot, so it's a lot of reading and I don't particularly like to read.

DEFENSE: Oh-kay then. Tell me, Mrs. Zachariah, do you know a Doctor Willimeaner French?

ELIZABETH: Oh yes. He's that Doctor from Jerusalem Street.

The Prosecutor sits up.

DEFENSE: Have you ever acquired his services?

ELIZABETH: Oh yes. After the Angel visited me, I went to him for advice.

DEFENSE: And what happened?

ELIZABETH: He chased me out of his office saying I was cookoo to believe I could be pregnant at my age.

DEFENSE: Really now (*glances over at the Prosecutor*) Then how do you know that you are pregnant?

ELIZABETH: (*points to her belly*) Duh. Hello!

DEFENSE: No further questions, Your Honour.

Prosecutor stands.

JUDGE: Do you wish to cross-examine the witness?

PROSECUTOR: I sure do.

JUDGE: Go ahead, but trod very gently. I got my eyes on you.

Prosecutor approach Elizabeth.

PROSECUTOR: Mrs. Elizabeth Zachariah, wife of Zachariah. How are you?

ELIZABETH: I'm fine.

PROSECUTOR: Did you have breakfast this morning?

DEFENSE: Objection, Your Honour. What is the relevance of that question?

PROSECUTOR: If this court will bear with me for just a few minutes, it will become clear.

The Judge considers.

JUDGE: Sustained. Answer the question, ma'am.

ELIZABETH: Yes, I had breakfast.

PROSECUTOR: Have you eaten since breakfast?

ELIZABETH: Yes, a few times.

PROSECUTOR: Then is it not possible that large stomach in front of you is just a manifestation of your greedy ways.

ELIZABETH: What?

PROSECUTOR: You are fat, Mrs. Zachariah. It's understandable that you would want to live in denial, but the truth is, you are not pregnant. You are just plain fat.

Pause.

ELIZABETH: Has food ever leaped in your stomach, or kicked against the walls of it?

Pause.

The Prosecutor goes to his seat. The Defense flashes him a smile.

JUDGE: You may step down, ma'am.

Elizabeth steps down. She hugs Mary before exiting.

JUDGE: We'll have a fifteen-minute recess at this time and reconvene at 0:1200 hours.

Judge hits his mallet, packs up his notes and exits.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE II

LIGHTS UP

The Bailiff walks out and faces the audience.

BAILIFF: All rise.

Everyone in the audience should stand.

BAILIFF: Judge Serious presiding.

Judge Serious enters and takes his place at the high rise seat.

JUDGE: Oh-kay then. So now we have a virgin mother with a one hundred and one-year-old cousin who is also pregnant. Uhm, this is shaping up to be quite a day. I'm a little reluctant to ask, but are there any more witnesses.

DEFENSE: Only one, Your Honour.

JUDGE: Well then, let's wrap this up, shall we? Call your witness.

DEFENSE: I call to the stand, Mr. Joseph Carpenter.

Joseph enters and takes his place. He smiles nervously at his wife to be.

DEFENSE: Will you tell the truth?

JOSEPH: I guess so.

DEFENSE: I need a yes or a no.

JOSEPH: Yah, I guess so.

DEFENSE: Can you just say yes without the 'I guess so.'

JOSEPH: I guess so.

Pause.

DEFENSE: Will you tell the truth?

JOSEPH: Yah.

DEFENSE: Can you just say yes or no?

JOSEPH: Of course.

Pause.

DEFENSE: Have a seat. (*Joseph sits*) For the record, please state your name and your relation to the Defendant.

JOSEPH: What's a Defendant?

DEFENSE: The Defendant is the individual on trial.

JOSEPH: Really, coooooool. My Fiancée is a Defendant. Woooooow. (*pause*) Sooo, what's a defendant?

The Judge hits his forehead with his palm. The Prosecutor and Defense does the same.

DEFENSE: Do you mind if I ask the questions?

JOSEPH: I guess not.

DEFENSE: Can you state your name, please?

JOSEPH: I sure can.

Pause.

DEFENSE: Tell us your name, please!

JOSEPH: Joseph Carpenter.

DEFENSE: And you are Mary's Fiancée?

JOSEPH: Yes, are, were, haven't quite made up my mind yet.

DEFENSE: Why not?

JOSEPH: Well, she is pregnant, and I am having a little bit of a hard time with it cause you gotta do something to get pregnant, and I wasn't the one she did something with, which means she did something with someone else and that kinda hurts me a bits.

DEFENSE: You really believe that?

JOSEPH: No, not really. That's what my mind tells me.

DEFENSE: What does your heart say?

JOSEPH: My heart tells me to believe the Angel in my Dreams.

DEFENSE: You were visited by an Angel?

JOSEPH: I sure was.

DEFENSE: What did the Angel tell you?

JOSEPH: That I should not be afraid to take Mary as my wife. The Child she now bears was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and He will save our people from their sin. (*starts to laugh*) So, I'm thinking, I ain't quite getting this Holy Ghost coming upon her and she becoming pregnant thing, you know. It just sounds --- impossible.

DEFENSE: You don't believe what Mary told you?

JOSEPH: I think I do, most of the time, but, I dunno, it goes beyond what we know as nature you see, so it's a bit hard to accept.

DEFENSE: Yeah, I suppose it's hard to fit the way of the Lord into our limited way of thinking and rationalizing, or better yet separating what we know as possible from what we perceive as impossible.

JOSEPH: Yeah, exactly, whatever all a that means. It sounds about right though.

DEFENSE: This is not the first miracle God has performed before our very eyes you know.

JOSEPH: Yeah, I know.

DEFENSE: No further questions.

Defense sits.

Prosecutor rises.

PROSECUTOR: So, Joseph, you are torn between two opinions, am I correct?

JOSEPH: Yeah, I guess so.

PROSECUTOR: On the one hand, a virgin birth is impossible, and on the other hand, anything is possible with God?

JOSEPH: Yah.

PROSECUTOR: Do you still plan to marry this sinner after what she has done?

MARY: Objection.

JUDGE: Overruled.

MARY: Objection.

JUDGE: I said overruled.

MARY: I have something to say.

JUDGE: Overruled.

MARY: I haven't done anything wrong. Joseph, you believe me, don't you? I love you.

Pause.

PROSECUTOR: Would you sacrifice common sense for a dream, a dream Joseph.

Pause.

PROSECUTOR: Would you discard an obvious truth for a myth that goes beyond our natural ability?

Pause.

PROSECUTOR: Would you marry an adulterer (*retrieves a stone*) or stone her for the sinner that she is?

Prosecutor hands Joseph the stone.

He considers long and hard. He gets up, stone still in hand.

The Defense pulls his seat away.

PROSECUTOR: The laws of your God says she must die.

Pause.

JOSEPH: I, cant --- (*He drops the stone*)

PROSECUTOR: What?

JOSEPH: I am in love with her.

Pause.

PROSECUTOR: You don't honestly believe this woman is still a virgin?

JOSEPH: She has to be. You are a smart man. Tell me, If she is not, then that means I would have to also believe that God no longer exist. Right?

PROSECUTOR: You are as dumb as you look.

JOSEPH: Likewise, sir.

Prosecutor grunts and takes his seat.

JUDGE: The witness may step down.

Joseph steps down and hugs Mary before exiting.

JUDGE: Counsellors, your closing arguments, please.

Prosecutor is first to go.

PROSECUTOR: We are all sensible people here. Born with common sense and wisdom and the natural laws dictate that a virgin cannot get pregnant. No amount of talk about God and His ability to do the impossible can change that fact. No amount of faith in a coming Messiah can change that fact. The truth is, it cannot happen, and I don't think we need to waste any more time on this. Mary will be stoned to death before this day is out for her lies and her deception. She is guilty, and we all know that she is.

Prosecutor pause, then takes his seat.

The Defense stands and straightens himself.

DEFENSE: The purpose of this trial was never to decide whether Mary did what her accusers say she did, but whether or not God can do anything. It's easy to determine that Mary is still a virgin by having her examined and we could keep going around in circles, but there are only two types of people here today; those who believe and those who don't and the outcome of this trial will depend on which side the majority leans. Consider all that you have seen and heard. Consider the words of the unbelieving Doctor, the elderly woman who herself is expecting child, and the man who has chosen to stand by his wife's side. Consider the possibilities, the prophecies, the testimonies and then decide for yourselves what has happened here on earth; here in our city, this very season. If God has indeed put his Son into the womb of this woman, then we can do nothing to change the course of history as it unfolds. We are left only with two choices; to believe or not to believe, and our own destinies will be tied into the choice we make this day.

The Defense pause, then takes his seat.

JUDGE: Will the defendant please stand and face the jury/audience.

Mary stands. Defense stands with her.

The Judge takes note, then look out to the audience as he removes his glasses.

JUDGE: You have heard the testimonies, the arguments, and though there was some physical evidence lacking in this case, we all see that it's a matter of faith. Considering our past, the spiritual world is as real as the physical and both manifest pieces of themselves in the other, but what is your pleasure today? Is Mary guilty of adultery or not? That's the only question I will ask you today, everything else is your business. Please indicate by the raising of your hands if you have found the defendant, Mary, guilty of adultery.

The audience responds.

JUDGE: I assume then that the majority has found her not guilty. In that case, the defendant is free to go. Case dismissed.

Prosecutor hits his desk.

PROSECUTOR: This is foolishness. Utter foolishness!

JUDGE: (*points at the Prosecutor*) See me in my office right now!

Judge exits.

Prosecutor slams the desk again and exits behind the judge.

Defense hugs Mary.

MARY: Thank you.

DEFENSE: This is just the beginning of your journey, Mary.

MARY: I know. Joseph had another strange dream last night. We leave for Egypt in a few hours.

DEFENSE: Take care of yourself and the Baby.

MARY: You know I will.

Mary leaves.

The Defense clears his desk.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK