



# JESUS - THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

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## Characters

- ❖ Mary
- ❖ Elizabeth
- ❖ Joseph
- ❖ Herod
- ❖ Shepherd 1
- ❖ Shepherd 2
- ❖ Shepherd 3

# JESUS - THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

## Mary - "Shocked"

*Wooh!!*

What just happened?

Can it really be true?

Of all the women on earth, why did He choose me?

He appeared from nowhere - an angel - and he said I am highly favoured and that I'm going to have a baby that I must call Jesus. Me? A baby? But I've never been with a man! Yes, I'm engaged to Joseph, but we've been very careful to follow all the proper Jewish customs. And now I'm going to have to tell him this and he's going to be as shocked as I am! Of course, we'd talked about having a family but never in our wildest dreams did we ever imagine it happening like this!

I know the Scriptures. I know God's promise to send a Messiah to save His people, but I couldn't help myself from asking, "How can this be?" The angel answered that the baby will be God's Son and that I shouldn't worry because God can do anything!

And somehow that was all the reassurance I needed and, even though I was still shaking with disbelief, I said that I was ready to serve God in this way.

I have absolutely no idea how any of this is going to pan out - although I'm pretty sure my mother is not going to be happy when I tell her - but because this is God's plan, my heart is telling me it will all be okay, and somehow amidst the astonishment of this news, that's enough.





## Elizabeth - "Laughter"

*Laughs out loud!*

Do you want to know what I'm laughing at?

I'm going to have a baby! A baby boy! Yes - even at my age!

And ever since Zach broke the news that I was going to have this baby, I haven't been able to stop laughing!

He on the other hand, can't see the funny side at all - hasn't been able to speak a word since that angel Gabriel visited him. But me? Well, I am so elated that God would bless us in this way, that the joy within me just keeps welling up and I laugh out loud at the incredibility of the whole thing.

Other than the laughing, the pregnancy itself has been pretty textbook but then something unexpected happened when my niece Mary arrived the other day - the baby inside of me jumped for such joy that I thought I was going to give birth there and then! Instead, God's Spirit inspired me to bless Mary and the special baby she herself is expecting, and then she began praising God for his love and mercy. It was such an amazing moment.

So can you see now why I keep laughing? I'm not sure that I understand why our baby must be called John - or how he is going to be a great man of God - but my heart is filled with joy at the thought of it, and I'm assured all will be well.

## Joseph - "Confusion"

Confused.com! That's me!

I couldn't believe what Mary was telling me.

A baby boy - born of God - to be named Jesus?

As she spoke my heart broke into a thousand pieces and when I turned to leave, I could see that she was broken too because I didn't believe her.

All evening my head was spinning in total bewilderment. Mary had never lied to me before, but this couldn't be true - could it?

As I drifted off to sleep, I had resolved that the best thing for me to do was to discreetly break off our engagement, but then an angel appeared to me in a dream and reassured me that everything Mary had said was true, and that I should go ahead with the wedding.

Mary's eyes sparkled with tears as I told her about the dream and asked for her forgiveness. I could see then that she was as puzzled as I was in many ways, but her deep faith has allowed her to accept God at His word.

It's not been an easy few months since then, and there are still days when I look at her ever expanding tummy and think, "Can that really be the Son of God growing in there?" And now, to complicate matters even further, Caesar Augustus has ordered that we need to travel to Bethlehem to register for the census, which is really the last thing we need to do with a baby due any time.

That said, we are simply trusting that God knows exactly what He is doing in all of this, and even though at times I still feel so bewildered, God knows my heart and I know He is with me.





## Herod - “Anger”

*Roars!*

How dare they?

Who do they think they are? Coming here, into my palace, and asking about a new king!

I am the only king round here and they would do very well to remember that!

Of course, I didn't say that to those eastern visitors. I was Mr Congeniality himself - offering them the full assistance of the chief priests and teachers of the law, and then listening with great interest to these knowledgeable men as they revealed that the Scriptures said the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem.

Having made sure they were totally unaware of the seething indignation I felt within, I sent them on their way with my blessing so that they left here thinking that I too wanted to go and worship this child. I asked them to report back to me when and where they had found the so-called king, so that I might go after them to do this.

But nothing can be further from the truth! I have no intention whatsoever of worshipping any imposter king, but I may send some special visitors on my behalf to ensure my line of succession continues.

My heart is vexed at the thought that anyone would presume there should be any king but me and I will not rest until I know the situation has been dealt with once and for all!

## Shepherds - “Surprise”

1 Oh my goodness - what a surprise!

2 Bright lights filling the sky!

3 An angel speaking to us!

1 And then a whole host of angels praising God.

2 I've never seen anything like it in my life!

3 It had been just an ordinary night.

1 But it felt like the end of the world had come!

2 And they startled the sheep too!

3 The Angel said not to be afraid because he was bringing good news, but we were terrified!

1 He said that a special baby had been born in Bethlehem,

2 And that we would find him lying in a manger.

3 And suddenly there were hundreds more angels and they kept saying, “Glory to God, peace on earth, Glory to God, peace of earth.”

1 Then as quickly as they'd arrived, they'd gone.

2 We decided that we'd better do as they said, so we set off towards town.

3 We found the baby just as we were told by the angels,

1 And we fell to our knees in worship.

2 Here was God's promise to His people being fulfilled right in front of us.





3 And we knew that nothing would ever be the same.  
1 As we left, we couldn't help but dance and sing all the way home.  
2 We told everyone we met about this child, and they were all amazed.  
3 And our hearts will never be the same because we have seen Jesus.  
1 God's only Son.  
2 The Messiah!  
3 Come to save us all.

### Shepherd (any) - "Surprise"

Oh my goodness - what a surprise!

Bright lights filling the sky!

An angel speaking to us! And then a whole host of angels praising God.

I've never seen anything like it in my life and truth be told, I doubt I ever will again!

It had been just an ordinary night but suddenly it felt like the end of the world had come! Thankfully I'd just finished eating my soup otherwise their unexpected appearance could have caused a right mess.

He said not to be afraid because he was bringing good news, but I was terrified - we all were! And then He said that a special baby had been born in Bethlehem - a Saviour, the Messiah - and that we would find him lying in a manger.

Then he was joined by hundreds more like him and together they kept saying, "Glory to God, peace on earth, Glory to God, peace of earth."

As quickly as they'd arrived, they were gone, and the stillness they left was eerily haunting. We decided that we'd better do as they said and so set off towards town but even the visit of angels had not fully prepared us for what would happen next. As we fumbled into the stable, there was the baby just as the angel had said and we fell to our knees in worship and I felt this warm, rush of overwhelming love like I had never felt before. Here was God's promise to His people being fulfilled right in front of me, and I knew that nothing would ever be the same.

As we left, all of us were dancing and singing and praising God, and we told everyone we met about this baby, and they were all amazed.

And I know that my heart will never be the same because I have seen Jesus, God's only Son, come to save us all.

