

The Nativity Interviews

No set is required, or there can be a Bethlehem street scene feel with a background of merchant tents, a first Century type gate, or perhaps an image projected on a screen.

*Introductory song - “How Far is it to Bethlehem”

PLAY TRACK. How Far is it to Bethlehem Accomp. Track.

Song ends.

PLAY TRACK. NI #1 - XMAS Theme and Shepherd.

A “man on the street” news reporter, Joshua Hurt, from XMAS TV, is there to conduct interviews because of some apparent excitement going on in Bethlehem. He sits at a small table (or stands) with a microphone and carries a clipboard or binder containing his interview questions. He wears modern day attire. He speaks to an imaginary camera person, talking over the music.

JOSHUA

Hey, Joey, how we lookin’ for camera angle, huh? We good?All right. Let’s do this.

(clears throat, straightens clothing)

(says to “TV audience”)

Good morning. Welcome to the X-M-A-S morning news. We are coming to you from the streets of the little town of Bethlehem today because of reports of an unusual amount of flurry and activity here last night. Officials in the town are busy collecting taxes and had no clue what went on last night, so we’re hoping to talk to some locals and get to the bottom of this story.

ENTER, JADE the shepherdess, with SHEEP. She is stopped as she approaches Joshua.

JOSHUA

Excuse me, miss, Joshua Hurt, XMAS TV News. May I interview you?

Sure.

JADE

Optional - JOSHUA hands her a microphone or has her stand near one on a stand.

JADE

(uncertain what to do with it, but mimics Joshua)

Uh....thanks...?

JOSHUA

Do you live here in Bethlehem?

JADE

Actually, I live and work in the fields outside of town.

JOSHUA

But you're in town today.

JADE

Wow, your powers of observation are..

(gestures to sheep to join her)

JADE AND SHEEP

Not baaaaaad!

JOSHUA

(ignoring their joke)

Were you here last night?

JADE

Yes, of course! We *had* to be here for the amazing event!

JOSHUA

Which was?

JADE

Only the birth of a Savior!

JOSHUA

(a bit incredulous)

I see..... Tell our audience what happened in your own words.

JADE

Well, there we were, watching our flocks by night, like we usually do, when, all of a sudden, right in the middle of the sky, an angel appeared! Practically scared the wool right off our sheep.

The SHEEP shiver.

SHEEP

It scared us baaaaaad.

JADE

We were SO afraid! But “Fear Not!” Said the angel, “For behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy which will be for all the people!” At this point, we’re all thinking, “How did we rate this personalized Angel News?” I mean, nobody cares about us shepherds or wants to hang out with us... Probably because we work with sheep....

(whispers to Joshua)

...And they’re kinda stinky.

JOSHUA

Duly noted.

JADE

(back to regular voice)

Anyway, the angel said, “This day, in the city of David” --uh, that’s Bethlehem-- “There is born for you a Savior who is Christ the Lord!” Then the angel goes on to tell us where, what, who, how, yada, yada, yada, and we start making a plan to head in to town.

JOSHUA

So, you rushed in to town....

JADE

Don’t get ahead of yourself, news guy. Next thing you know, a whole giant TEAM of angels shows up and says, all together, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased.” So, naturally, we all get really scared again, because if you think ONE angel talking to you is frightening, you oughtta try having the whole sky light up with them!

JOSHUA

So... *then* you rushed in to town?

JADE

(thinking over his question)

Hmm....Rushed is a good word.... Scurried.... Scrambled...Hurried....RAN! Honestly, half of us were just trying to get away from the whole angels out in the field thing. Pretty hard to believe what they were saying, you know?

JOSHUA

I can definitely relate... I'm guessing when you got here, you found nothing?

JADE

What?! No! Believe it or not, *everything* was just like the angel told us. There was a mother, a father, and a little baby boy wrapped in cloths. He was lying in a manger--

JOSHUA

--A manger!? You mean like cows eat out of?

JADE

Yeah, I know, right? And people think *sheep* are stinky! Anyway, we knelt down and worshipped him. We couldn't help it. He was the most amazing baby. We figured any baby who has angels doing his birth announcement had to be somebody special. The most special baby ever!

JOSHUA

(not convinced)

Hmm. Well, very interesting story. I'm sure more, uh... Facts will come out about last night. What are you going to do now?

JADE

That's a dumb question. What else *can* I do? I'm gonna tell everybody I can about the amazing night we've just had. I mean what would *you* do if *you* just got introduced to the Savior of the World??? Bye-Bye, Mister.

(hands him the microphone)

Say bye-bye, little sheep.

SHEEP

Baaaa-Baaaa, Mister!

EXIT, JADE and SHEEP.

JOSHUA

(to camera person)

Cut for now, Joey..... Gotta make some notes...

Optional - JOSHUA freezes for song break - any song about Behlehem or the Manger.

JOSHUA

(to Joey)

What's that, Joey?..... What *would* I do if I just got introduced to the savior of the....?. If I believed it, which I don't....aw, I don't really know. Get rolling, here comes another local.

PLAY TRACK. NI #2 - Mara's Theme

ENTER, MARA, the innkeeper's wife. She is carrying a bushel of laundry (swaddling clothes).

JOSHUA

Excuse me, M'am. Joshua Hurt with XMAS TV News. May I interview you?

MARA

Kinda busy, as you can see. Lots of traffic at the inn last night. Full house.

(smiling)

AND stable.

JOSHUA

(battering her up, hoping for an interview)

Yes, we're hearing about a flurry of activity here in town last night. Can you tell us what *you* know?

Optional, JOSHUA hands MARA a microphone or she used one on a stand.

MARA

I can tell you that what started out as an ordinary, busy tax-season night, turned in to something else all together.

JOSHUA

How so?

MARA

We own the inn down the road; last inn on the block. For the past month, every room has been booked solid and we're scrambling to keep up with the work, right? The money's great, but it makes for some very irritated inn-keeping, I can tell you that. Anyway, late yesterday, a man and wife were at the door begging for a room. I rushed to the door when I heard my husband yelling, "Full up! Can't you people from Galilee understand plain Hebrew? I said, 'Full UP!' There is no more room at the inn!" You should have seen their faces. I followed them out, just to apologize for my husband's grouchy-ness. That's when I noticed the woman was in distress. She was about ready to have a baby! So I offered them the stables in back of the inn. I mean, *some* kind of shelter, privacy, a place to lay down, right? I had the stable boy bring in some fresh hay and loaned the couple some cloths for the birth.

(long, wistful pause thinking about the event)

JOSHUA

(disappointed)

And.... that's it. That's the your whole story. Ugh... Joey, we can edit out this footage later.

MARA

(to Joey)

Oh, no, you don't. You better keep it rollin', JO-JO!

(to Joshua)

That, sir, is just the beginning! Later that night I was out dumping some dirty water when I saw a group of shepherds come rushing... uh.....scurrying... scrambling....hurrying.... well, RUNNING into town and it scared me because they headed straight for our stable! I was thinking, "Not another midnight tax protest!" when I noticed they all looked pretty scared and anxious, which made *me* scared and anxious, of course. But they seemed to know right where to go, so I just watched. Then, all was peace and quiet. Except for the sweet cry of the baby in the manger, of course. I peeked in to the stable and saw the mother, the father, and the baby looking so content--and all those stinky shepherds kneeling down....*worshipping*. They began to sing and thank the Lord God Almighty for sending his angels to tell them about the newborn Savior. Angels? Giving news to Shepherds? The Messiah in a manger? Poor Parents? Unbelievable. The mother was amazed at what they said, but you could kind of tell she almost expected it. I couldn't believe what I was witnessing. It seemed *way* too far-fetched.

JOSHUA

I can definitely relate. Go on...