

TEN MINUTES INTO THE BIBLE SERIES

THE THREE WISE WOMEN

Reflection:

Sometimes wisdom begins with a question, grows through discernment, and finds its answer in the presence of something greater than ourselves.

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THE THREE WISE WOMEN

By J.S. Jacklin

10-minute play inspired by Matthew 2: 1-12 (imagining the Magi as three very different women.)

What if the wise men who travelled to Bethlehem were not men at all, but three very different wise women?

CHARACTERS: 3 (3f)

CASSIE: (wears a lavish robe - *status-conscious, confident, loyal to Herod, and determined to remain in control.*)

MELANIE: (wears a lavish robe - *warm-hearted, impulsive, easily distracted and imaginative.*)

BARB: (wears a lavish robe - *practical, suspicious, observant, and increasingly spiritually perceptive.*)

SETTING:

The three wise women are travelling from Jerusalem toward Bethlehem, carrying bundles, baskets and bags. They have been sent to seek the newborn King of the Jews.

CASSIE Are you sure you have us travelling in the right direction, Melanie?

MELANIE It's the same star that brought us to Jerusalem to meet King Herod.

BARB That's some star to guide us all this way.

CASSIE It has been quite the journey so far, Ladies, but hey, there is a new King of the Jews to meet, so... now, we follow the star to Bethlehem.

MELANIE I've never been to Bethlehem.

CASSIE None of us have. Thus, we follow the star.

BARB We could have connected with the shepherds in Jerusalem. As a back up. They found this new king in Bethlehem. When He was first born.

MELANIE Surely, they'll will have moved from the Manger by now!

CASSIE I'll put my trust in a star before I follow the rough recollections of a trio of shepherds.

MELANIE This is the way. I'm sure of it. *(Pause.)* Well, I think it is.

BARB It's possible those shepherds asked for directions.

Both CASSIE and MELANIE give a doubting look and laugh.

CASSIE We'll find Him. King Herod is counting on us.

BARB Yeah, about that?

MELANIE What is it, Barb?

BARB I don't trust him.

CASSIE Herod? Why don't you trust him?

BARB *(Mocking Herod's voice.)* "Go make a careful search."

CASSIE He doesn't want us to get lost.

BARB *(Mocking Herod's voice.)* "Report back to me."

MELANIE So he can do what we are doing. Find him. Meet him and then worship Him.

CASSIE He's a king who—

MELANIE Who just wants to meet a new king.

BARB A *rival* king!

CASSIE He didn't give any indication that he felt threatened.

MELANIE Especially with this new king being a toddler.

BARB For now.

MELANIE *(Looking around.)* Oh no! I must have forgotten the wine in the ladies' room in Jerusalem!

BARB Some shepherd's wife is going to have a real knees-up tonight.

CASSIE Oh, for goodness sake, Melanie. You'd lose your head if it wasn't attached to your neck.

BARB No loss. The king's young mother won't be drinking alcohol.

MELANIE It was for us.

BARB She'll have her work cut out raising a king.

MELANIE We won't have anything to wet the baby's head now.

BARB Just as well. His mother won't want Him smelling like booze at such a tender age.

CASSIE And she certainly won't want rumours started about *her*. You know how neighbours can be.

BARB Well, we're not showing up empty handed. I have a casserole for them.

CASSIE Hope you didn't spice it too much.

BARB Just a taste of seasoning. I was mindful.

CASSIE I brought some extra cloth for diapers.

BARB You can never have too many of those.

CASSIE Although, she might have him potty-trained by now.

BARB She'll still need them for the night.

MELANIE You know what else we forgot?

CASSIE We didn't forget anything. You forgot your wine.

MELANIE Toys. Or at least a snuggly for him to cuddle.

BARB They have pets for snuggling.

MELANIE Oh, my bunion is acting up. Can we rest for a titch?

BARB I could do with a rest, too, Cassie.

CASSIE Fine. But only for a minute or two. (*Looking around.*) I don't want to be caught with my—

MELANIE GOLD!

CASSIE Shhhhhhh! Keep your voice down.