

MARY'S DREAM

I HAD A DREAM, JOSEPH. I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT... NOT REALLY. BUT I THINK IT WAS ABOUT A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR MY SON. I THINK THAT'S WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT.

THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN PREPARING FOR IT FOR ABOUT 6 WEEKS. THEY HAD RUSHED ABOUT TO MANY STRANGE PLACES TO BUY EXPENSIVE AND ELABORATE GIFTS FOR EACH OTHER.

IT WAS PECULIAR THOUGH—BECAUSE NONE OF THE PRESENTS WAS FOR OUR SON. THEY WRAPPED THEM IN BEAUTIFUL PAPER AND TIED THEM WITH LOVELY BOWS AND STACKED THEM UNDER A PINE TREE.

YES MY DEAR—A TREE—RIGHT IN THEIR HOUSE. AND THE TREE WAS DECORATED. THE BRANCHES WERE FILLED WITH GLOWING BALLS AND SPARKLING ORNAMENTS. THERE WAS A FIGURE ON THE TOP OF THE TREE. IT LOOKED LIKE AN ANGEL MIGHT LOOK. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL! EVERYONE WAS LAUGHING AND HAPPY --THEY WERE ALL EXCITED ABOUT THE GIFTS.

THEY GAVE THE GIFTS TO EACH OTHER, JOSEPH, BUT THEY HAD NOTHING FOR OUR SON. I DON'T THINK THEY EVEN KNEW HIM. THEY NEVER MENTIONED HIS NAME. DOESN'T IT SEEM ODD FOR PEOPLE TO GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO CELEBRATE SOMEONE'S BIRTHDAY IF THEY DON'T KNOW HIM OR CARE ABOUT HIM?

I HAD THE STRANGEST FEELING THAT IF WE HAD GONE TO THIS CELEBRATION WE WOULD HAVE BEEN INTRUDING--MAYBE EVEN UNWELCOME!

EVERYTHING WAS SO BEAUTIFUL... BUT JOSEPH... I WANTED TO CRY.

HOW SAD FOR JESUS, TO BE UNKNOWN AND UNWELCOME AT HIS OWN BIRTHDAY PARTY.

I AM GLAD IT WAS ONLY A DREAM, JOSEPH.

HOW TERRIBLE IF IT HAD BEEN REAL!

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MODEST WAYS TO WELCOME JESUS INTO YOUR FAMILY'S CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMASS

READ TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

LUKE ANNUNCIATION 1:26-38

BIRTH OF JESUS 2:1-20

1 DECADE OF THE ROSARY

SING ALL 3 VERSES OF SILENT NIGHT

QUIET TIME WITH THE MANGER -- 5 MINUTES

EVERYBODY BRING THEIR FAVORITE CHRISTMASS CARD OR IMAGE --
PASS AROUND--

A **REAL** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AT SUPPER--EVERYONE ADDS
SOMETHING TO IT