

# **SIMPLE BEGINNINGS**

**By Dorothy Dunham**

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**DEDICATION**

*The Lord has truly blessed me with three wonderful sons; Kyle, Brent and Daniel. I would never have known the joys of motherhood without you. Each one of you has made it a pleasure being a mom. I praise the Lord for His guidance and for you three.*

*The Playwright*

**STORY OF THE PLAY**

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to be young Mary? Can you imagine how you would have felt when an angel came to you to tell you that out of all the women in the world...you had been chosen to bear the Messiah? The Scriptures do not go into much detail about Mary's feelings or her family's. SIMPLE BEGINNINGS tells the story of how it might have been. This story comes from the Scriptures with some interpretation by the author. Meet Mary, her family and friends as they journey into a world that Jehovah has prepared for them.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(3 m, 5 w, optional 3 m)*

**MARY:** The young mother of Jesus.

**SALOME:** Mary's friend.

**TABITHA:** Another friend of Mary's.

**MOTHER:** Mary's mother.

**GABRIEL:** Angel sent with a message from God.

**ELIZABETH:** Mary's older cousin.

**JOSEPH:** Mary's intended husband.

**FATHER:** Mary's father.

**\*SHEPHERD 1:** Comes to worship baby Jesus.

**\*SHEPHERD 2:** Another.

**\*SHEPHERD 3:** Another.

*\*Characters for the optional last scene.*

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**SETTING:** The first scene can be played before the curtain or in the aisles and front of the auditorium. You can use the same set for Mary's and Elizabeth's homes, by changing a few props. The optional ending can be played off to one side with other props to make it look like a cave or stable.

**PROPS** - Three water vessels, mat or cot, several filled burlap bags, blanket to wrap baby Jesus.

**COSTUMES** - All should wear Biblical attire. Simple robes and cloth tie sashes.

**SCENE 1**

*(AT RISE: MARY, TABITHA and SALOME enter from the rear of the auditorium laughing and carrying water vessels as they are returning from the village well. They converse coming down the aisle and stop in the front of the stage area; or the scene is performed before the curtain.)*

MARY: Wasn't it crowded at the well today?

TABITHA: *(To MARY.)* Yes, but wasn't it great? *(To SALOME.)* Salome, you seemed somewhat preoccupied there in town.

SALOME: That's because there were so many handsome men in the village today.

TABITHA: *(Dreamily.)* Yes, I saw one that I would love to take home.

MARY: Oh, Tabitha, really!

TABITHA: Mary, are you jealous?

MARY: What do you mean?

SALOME: She's just teasing you because you are already promised to Joseph so you shouldn't be looking.

MARY: You are right about that.

TABITHA: *(Jabbing SALOME in the side.)* All the better for us, Salome, right? One less we have to compete with.

SALOME: Yes, especially since everyone likes Mary so much.

MARY: *(Embarrassed.)* Oh, Salome.

SALOME: It's true. You are so nice to everyone. I've never heard anyone say anything negative about you.

TABITHA: She's right. *(Wanting to change the subject.)* But, Mary, why Joseph? Isn't he too old?

MARY: Older, yes, but too old? No. He says he has waited a long time for me. My parents really like him and he's from a good family. The best thing is that he treats me well.

TABITHA: I don't know, Mary, I think I'd rather have a man closer to my age.

MARY: The important thing is that we can talk to each other about everything and we understand each other so well.

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TABITHA: Salome, are you hearing what I am? I think Mary is an old lady in a young girl's body!

SALOME: It does kind of sound that way.

MARY: Okay, okay. But really...Joseph and I have the same beliefs in Jehovah and he is so kind to me.

SALOME: Yes, I see what you mean. I want a husband that is kind, too!

TABITHA: Me, too! Especially after I've seen how some men treat their wives. But he has to be REALLY handsome!

*(MARY and SALOME look at TABITHA and laugh.)*

TABITHA: *(Looking defensive.)* What? What is so funny?

SALOME: Tabitha, you are too much! Do you think about anything other than handsome men?

TABITHA: What could be more important than that?

MARY: *(Chuckling.)* I guess in your case, nothing. I hate to change the subject, but do either of you ever think about having children?

TABITHA: Me? Are you kidding? I'm more interested in finding a man. Then I have to figure out how I can get my parents to arrange the marriage.

*(MARY and SALOME laugh again.)*

TABITHA: I'm so glad you two find me amusing.

SALOME: No harm intended, Tabitha, it just sounds so much like you. *(To MARY.)* I do, Mary, why do you ask?

MARY: Because I think about it a lot. What kind of a mother I will be. And what will it be like to have a family of my own.

SALOME: You'll make a great mother, Mary. You are already great with children. They all love you and look up to you.

TABITHA: Yeah, you're a great example to young people. Quite mature for your age, if I say so myself.

MARY: Thanks, you are both good friends. I appreciate your encouragement.

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