

## JOSEPH AND HIS LAWYER

by BRIAN WALTER

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** To open a discussion or sermon on who Joseph was and what likely happened in his small town when he decided not to divorce Mary.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** Keep the energy heightened so the audience thinks Silas might talk Joseph out of it. To do this, Joseph must remain steadfast but be on the brink. If he's played all at the same emotional level, we won't believe that he could crack. This is a great way to set up a sermon or discussion on the historical events before Jesus' birth and what pressure Joseph would have been under from those he trusted to divorce Mary. The pastor may need to help the congregation understand that though Mary and Joseph weren't actually married, in their culture, you had to file "divorce" papers to break an engagement. They were engaged, so this was a big deal for Joseph.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 4

**TOPIC:** Advent, Biblical Times

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 1:18-25

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Worship Service, Christmas Service

**CHARACTERS:**

Joseph-Husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus  
Silas-A scribe, serving as Joseph's lawyer

**PROPS:** 1) Two scrolls  
2) Pen  
3) Desk  
4) Chair  
5) Other papers on Silas' desk

**COSTUMES:** Biblical robes and sandals

**SOUND:** Two wireless mics

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** The office of Silas, Joseph's lawyer

### Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com  
www.DramaMinistry.com  
ISSN 1084-5917

Drama Ministry is a division of  
**Belden Worship Resources**  
www.beldenworshipresources.com

Publisher: **Regi Stone**

Executive Editor: **Kimberlee Crisafulli** / Assistant Editor: **Scott Crain**

Copyright ©2011 by Drama Ministry. Material is intended for use by the subscriber in the subscriber's local church. With the exception of scripts, no issue may be reproduced by any means. As a subscriber, you may make as many copies of scripts as needed in your church only. You may perform the sketch as often as you wish at no additional cost. Scripts and performance rights are not transferable between churches and cannot be resold. You may not use the sketch for any commercial or fundraising purpose, and usage rights do not extend to video, radio, television or film.

## JOSEPH AND HIS LAWYER *by Brian Walter*

*SILAS, a scribe, is seated at a desk of sorts and is writing on a scroll. JOSEPH rushes into the room.*

**JOSEPH:** Silas, stop what you're doing!

**SILAS:** *(Surprised, then bewildered)* Why?

**JOSEPH:** I don't want it to happen.

**SILAS:** You don't want this to happen?

**JOSEPH:** Right. You've got to stop it.

**SILAS:** That's very noble of you, Joseph ... but I don't think the Hillels left you anything.

**JOSEPH:** *(Confused)* Oh ... isn't that ... my certificate of divorce?

**SILAS:** No, this is a will. *(Grabbing another scroll)* This is your divorce certificate. I was just about to present it to the elders, so we can officially end your engagement to Mary.

**JOSEPH:** I've changed my mind.

**SILAS:** Joseph, don't try to bargain down the fee. You already agreed to three shekels.

**JOSEPH:** *(Sighs, then:)* You don't understand. It's not the money. *(Pause)* I'm going through with the marriage.

**SILAS:** Joseph, this isn't Caesarea. It's Nazareth. In small towns, people count the months. You can't keep this a secret. *(Matter-of-factly)* Now, if you are the fa-

**JOSEPH:** *(Indignant)* I am not!

**SILAS:** *(Out of patience)* Well, then, face it! The woman was unfaithful to you. You should have married an older widow like I told you. These younger women ...

**JOSEPH:** She has been completely faithful!

**SILAS:** Oh ... so the lady in question is not with child?

**JOSEPH:** I didn't say that.

**SILAS:** Well, then, that doesn't leave many options, does it?

**JOSEPH:** One. The power of the Holy Spirit. An angel appeared to me, Silas. He said not to be afraid to take Mary as my wife. *(Speaking more formally to quote the angel:)* "For that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bear a son; and you shall call his name Jesus, for it is he who will save his people from their sins."