

# SHOEMAKER'S DREAM

*By Ellen Gans*

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## The Shoemaker's Dream

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### STORY OF PLAY

The Shoemaker and his wife wanted so much to have Christ visit their home during the Christmas season. They felt certain they would know Him when He came, yet they were disappointed when throughout the day their only visitors were a poor woman and her baby, a rich old spinster, a beggar, and a young boy in trouble, all of whom they invited willingly into their home for coffee and words of encouragement.

However, in a dream that night (*shown in pantomime.*) the Shoemaker saw those he had helped that day worshipping at the manger where the Christ Child lay and realized that, through them, Christ had visited him that day.

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**SYNOPSIS**

**Scene 1:** The Shoemaker's Shop.

**Scene 2:** Manager Scene.

**Scene 3:** The Shoemaker's Shop.

**Playing Time:** 30 minutes.

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**CHARACTERS**

*(10 m, 5 w, plus Carolers)*

**SHOEMAKER**

**SHOEMAKER'S WIFE**

**POOR WOMAN WITH YOUNG CHILD**

**BEGGAR**

**MR. GALENA:** A shopkeeper.

**JIM:** A policeman.

**YOUTH:** About 15 yrs. old.

**MISS JAMES:** A rich spinster.

**ANGEL**

**THREE SHEPHERDS**

**JOSEPH, MARY, AND THE BABE**

**POOR WOMAN'S HUSBAND**

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**SCENE 1**

*(AT RISE: The SHOEMAKER is busy with hammer and shoes.)*

SHOEMAKER: *(Looks out the window.)* My, but it's cold and blustery out today, too cold to be out. Glad my shop and home are combined.

WIFE: Yes, and tomorrow is Christmas. So many people are doing their last minute shopping. I'm glad mine is all finished, and I can stay where it's warm.

SHOEMAKER: Yes, tomorrow is Christmas. I dreamed last night that Jesus would visit us today, and I feel I must have everything just right. I'll hurry and straighten the shop, and you must straighten the house. I'm glad to say that I have already straightened my life and have accepted Jesus as my Saviour.

WIFE: I, too, am glad He is mine and I am His. At this Christmas time I can rejoice in Him. So many people think this is a time for gifts and neglect the greatest gift ever ... our wonderful Jesus. Wouldn't it be wonderful if your dream came true and Jesus did come and visit us today? I'll hurry now and put on some fresh coffee, get some milk, cookies, and things, that way I'll be ready for company. I feel a little strange, too.

SHOEMAKER: I'm sure I'll know Him when He comes. I believe I won't work too much more on the shoes today. *(Looks out the window.)* Oh, dear, look! That poor child, no shoes and so cold! He has one foot out of the blanket. Hurry out and bring the mother and child in! They look cold and hungry. *(WIFE quickly puts down food and brings in WOMAN and CHILD.)*

WIFE: My dear, it's so cold! Must you be out when it's so cold? Here, let's get this baby warm. You drink this hot coffee, and I'll give the baby some warm milk.

WOMAN: My husband is very ill. I was out to see if I could find work and buy his medicine. We are out of food and the baby needs shoes. We were doing fine until my husband got sick.

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SHOEMAKER: I'm very sorry, perhaps we can help you?  
Here is a pair of shoes I'm sure will fit your child.

WOMAN: Oh, no! I cannot take anything that I'm not able to pay for.

*(SHOEMAKER helps put shoes on the CHILD.)*

SHOEMAKER: No, it's quite all right. We want to help, and we feel that at this Christmas time we would like to do for others. You know Christmas is Christ's birthday, and He is the greatest gift the world has ever had.

WOMAN: *(Head down.)* What do you mean?

SHOEMAKER: Have you never heard of this wonderful Jesus, who gave up everything for us? Surely you know there is a God. Have you not read John 3:16? *(HE quotes it.)*

WOMAN: Yes, I guess I've heard, but I didn't think it applied to me.

WIFE: But my dear, it applies to everyone. The Bible says whosoever cometh unto Him, He will in no wise cast out.

WOMAN: But we are poor, have nothing to give, and can do nothing in return.

SHOEMAKER: Christ does not expect you to give anything in return, just your heart and life. He will care for you and help you through your trials. All He asks is that you accept Him as your Saviour and live for Him.

WOMAN: Are you sure?

WIFE: Yes, we are sure, for we know Him and we know He loves us.

SHOEMAKER: He loves us and you so much that He gave up everything and was crucified on Calvary that we might have peace, joy and life eternal ... that we might have someone to cast our burdens on.

WOMAN: It sounds so wonderful! No one has ever told me this before. I feel as if I'd like to know Him, too.

SHOEMAKER: Let's kneel here and tell Him and ask His forgiveness of your sins. *(ALL kneel, SHOEMAKER prays.)*

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WOMAN: Oh, God, I am sorry for my sins and I do want to accept Thee as my Saviour! I do want joy and peace! Amen. (*WOMAN stands, REST rise.*) I feel so different, as if a great weight has been lifted. I must hurry home and tell my husband what a wonderful thing has happened to me. Thank you for everything. I shall not forget your great kindness. Good-bye. (*Goes out.*)

WIFE: Husband, I feel as if God has been here. Let's keep praying for her and her sick husband.

SHOEMAKER: Yes, I wish I had thought to ask where she lived. Maybe we can find out and take her some food. Oh, look! Here comes a man who looks as though he's been on skid row or else just recovering from a drinking spree. I believe I'll go talk to him. (*Steps out.*) Hello, sir.

BEGGAR: Sir, you called me sir?

SHOEMAKER: Yes, are you not cold in that kind of coat?

BEGGAR: Yes, but who cares? All I care for is another drink.

SHOEMAKER: Come in and have some hot coffee and a bite to eat. (*Takes BEGGAR'S arm.*)

BEGGAR: (*Holding back.*) I don't know. Who are you, and why should I come in?

SHOEMAKER: Come in and see. (*Leads HIM in.*) Wife, get some hot coffee and a bite to eat, this man is cold. (*Hands BEGGAR coffee and sandwich*)

BEGGAR: Man! Me? Why don't you say what you are thinking? Bum, that's all I am. Thanks, this coffee is good. Why do you do this for me?

SHOEMAKER: Tomorrow is Christmas and we are happy. You see, tomorrow is the Saviour's birthday and we are rejoicing in Him. He has done so much for us we would like to do something for someone.

BEGGAR: Who's done what for who? I've been around a long time and I've yet to see anyone do anything for nothing. Oh sure, they'll toss you a dime or a quarter for some coffee, but that's only to keep you from bothering them. You are the first one to ask me in without my asking first. What gives with you folks? Who did so much for you?

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