

# *The Day After His Birth*

A thought-provoking Christmas drama sketch by  
Brian T. Whitaker, Whitaker Writings

**Cast:** Census Taker (M or F), Joseph, Mary (silent role), and Shepherds (3-5 boys ages 8-18), a few extras milling about in the beginning

**Summary:** A Census Taker visits Joseph and Mary the day after Jesus is born. He completely misses the significance of Jesus' birth, even as the shepherds run through the town shouting that they've seen the Messiah.

**Time:** 2 minutes

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**Setting:** The day after Jesus is born, a census taker goes through Bethlehem to do his job. He bumps into Joseph and Mary, but misses the significance of the Baby born last night.

**Characters:**

Census Taker  
Joseph  
Shepherds (3-5 boys ages 8-18)  
Mary (silent)  
Extras (silent)--milling about in the beginning  
Baby (doll) in a manger

**Props:**

Baby Doll  
Manger (preferably stone to be historically accurate)  
Clipboard and Pencil

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*As the lights come up, Joseph and a few extras are milling about the stage. Mary is kneeling by the manger, playing with the "baby" inside.*

**Census Taker (CT):** *(loudly as a proclamation)* In keeping with the decree of Caesar Augustus, I am here in Bethlehem to take a proper count of all citizens. Please return to your homes so I can meet each one of you at your house. Be prepared to tell me about yourself and all of the members of your household. *(Noticing Joseph is not going anywhere)* You, sir, I asked you to return to your home.

**Joseph:** But I'm not in a home. My wife and I are staying out here with our baby.

**CT:** *(gasps)* Surely not! You have a baby outside?

**Joseph:** There wasn't any room in the inn. We did the best we could. God has protected us.

**CT:** *(dismissive)* Well, whatever. I might as well begin with you, since you're right here. *(Holds up clipboard, reading and filling in a survey with an uninterested attitude)* Name?