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I Come Bearing Gifts

From The Worship Drama Library, Volume 13

By Jan Peterson Ewen

Theme: Spiritual Gifts/Loaves and Fishes

Suggested Scripture: Mark 6:30-44 and 1 Corinthians 12:1—13:13

Cast: SARAH ANGEL

Setting: Living room in an apartment of a family home. There are two chairs and a small table. Sarah is sitting in a chair, reading. There is a knock at the door. Sarah answers it. We see Angel holding three large gifts. The packages cover Angel’s face.

SARAH (opens the door): Yes? (Trying to see who it is) May I help you?

ANGEL (from behind the packages): Hello. Uh, could you take this top package, please? (SARAH takes the top package and we see ANGEL’s face.) That’s better. Hi!

SARAH (wary): Uh, hi. Do I know you?

ANGEL (cheerfully): No. You don’t.

SARAH: Well, I don’t mean to be rude, but who are you and what are you doing here?

ANGEL (with great aplomb): I come bearing gifts!

SARAH: I can see that. I think you must have the wrong house.

(SARAH puts the package back on top of the other packages and starts to close the door on ANGEL.)

ANGEL (stopping SARAH): Is this 201 N. Beech?

SARAH: Yes, it is, but . . .

ANGEL: And are you Sarah?
SARAH: Well, yes, I am . . .

ANGEL: Then this is the right house. May I come in?

(SARAH is still wary.)

SARAH: Are you from the Welcome Wagon or something?

ANGEL (likes this idea): Yeah. Something like that.

SARAH (still skeptical): Can I please see some identification?

ANGEL: Oh, sure.

(Angel shows Sarah her lapel identification tag.)

SARAH (reads the tag): “Bearer of Gifts.” Nice picture.

ANGEL: Thanks.

SARAH: Well, I guess it’s OK for you to come in.

ANGEL: Oh, good. These packages are getting heavy. (She enters and crosses to the table. She sets the packages down and sits.)

SARAH (still standing): So, what is all this?

ANGEL: These are for you.

SARAH: For me? What for? It’s not my birthday. Did I win something?

ANGEL: No. They are just gifts—in the true sense of the word. No strings attached. They are yours. Come on. Don’t be so skeptical. Open them.

SARAH (sits and considers this): They’re mine?

ANGEL: Yes.

SARAH: No strings?

ANGEL: No strings!

SARAH: I’m not going to have to buy anything or subscribe to anything?

ANGEL (surprised at Sarah’s attitude): Sarah, haven’t you ever received a gift before?

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SARAH: Well, yeah, of course I have. Lots of times.

ANGEL: Did you always ask so many questions of the giver?

SARAH: No. But I always knew why the giver was giving it to me.

ANGEL: Oh, OK—I am giving you these gifts because Someone loves you very much.

SARAH: Oh, boy. This is getting stranger by the minute.

ANGEL: Just open them. Here (ANGEL hands SARAH a package), start with this one.

SARAH (slowly takes the first package and examines it; shakes it, then carefully opens it; takes out a scroll, unrolls it and reads it): “To you, Sarah, I give the gift of HOSPITALITY.” (She looks quizzically at ANGEL.)

ANGEL: You did let me in!

SARAH: What is this?

ANGEL: Hospitality! It’s a very important gift. Here, open this one.

(She hands SARAH another gift. SARAH slowly opens this gift. It is another scroll. She unrolls it and reads it.)

SARAH: “To you, Sarah, I give the gift of HEALING.”

ANGEL (very excited): Congratulations!

SARAH: But, what if I don’t want the gift of HEALING? I’m really kind of squeamish! Can I exchange this for another one?

ANGEL: No, I’m sorry. There are no exchanges and no returns. However, you may choose not to use your gifts but they will always belong to you.

SARAH: But, what if I just can’t use them. What if I’m not capable of using them?

ANGEL: Ah, well, open this last one.

(Angel hands Sarah the last package.)

Sarah (opens it): What’s this? A guarantee?

ANGEL: Yes. All gifts come with a lifetime guarantee. This explains that if you are given a gift you are able to use it. And, if you choose to use these gifts for the common good, your life will be fulfilled beyond all your expectations.

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SARAH: You know, this is a lot to comprehend.

ANGEL: Don’t worry. You have plenty of time to discover the possibilities.

(ANGEL starts to leave.)

SARAH: Oh, are you leaving already? I could make some coffee . . .

ANGEL: That’s good! You see—HOSPITALITY is becoming a part of you already. I’m sorry, though. I must go. I have a lot more packages to deliver. I’ll check in now and then to see how you’re coming along. Oh, I almost forgot . . . (She runs to the door, picks up a Bible, and crosses back to SARAH.) Here’s your manual. (She hands SARAH the Bible.) It’ll answer a lot of your questions. Then I suggest that you talk to other people who have gifts. They’re all over the place. You’ll figure it out. It’s been a pleasure meeting you. (She is moved.) And again, congratulations!

(ANGEL exits.)

SARAH: Yeah—well, thanks.

(SARAH closes the door, crosses over to sit in a chair, and starts to read her manual.)

(Curtain)

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Author’s Note: It is my intention that the drama “I Come Bearing Gifts” will open up a dialogue on the scriptural references regarding spiritual gifts. Are spiritual gifts limited to those listed in the Bible, or are those examples of a wide variety of possibilities? I feel that it is our willingness that opens the door for God to work through us, regardless of our particular gifts. I also believe that God gives freely to each of His children without preference, even as we would give to our own children. We all receive limitless gifts, and it is surely through our participation and willingness that our gifts will benefit the kingdom of God.