WHO BEGAT WHOM
by John Cosper

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: Two gossiping women in the first century discuss the family genealogy of Jesus.

DIRECTOR’S TIP: This can be set in Biblical times, but it is most effective if the characters are portrayed as being from modern times. Play up the comedy and feel free to ad lib.

TIME: Under 5 minutes
CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Gossip, Biblical Times

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 1:1-17

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Christmas Service, Sermon Starter

CHARACTERS: HAZEL and PEARL—notorious gossips

PROPS: Laundry baskets, clothes, a few chocolate bars

COSTUMES: Modern housewife clothing

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: The Laundromat
HAZEL walks in with a bag of laundry. PEARL is standing at a counter.

PEARL: Afternoon.
HAZEL: Afternoon to you.
PEARL: Another round of laundry?
HAZEL: The usual, Pearl. Need it by Monday.
PEARL: Not a problem. I’ll have it waiting for you.

HAZEL looks left, right, then switches to gossip mode.

HAZEL: So I’ve been hearing all kinds of things.
HAZEL: The carpenter’s girl.

PEARL stops, looks around, then leans in.
PEARL: What do you hear?
HAZEL: Word on the street has it the little girl is no longer pure.
PEARL: Is that a fact?
HAZEL: I hear tell she has a bun in the oven, and that it’s not her husband-to-be’s.
PEARL: No!
HAZEL: You don’t know anything about this?
PEARL: Just a vague recollection.

HAZEL hands PEARL a candy bar.

PEARL: The girl is pregnant.
HAZEL: Oh my!
PEARL: And, he’s marrying her anyway.
HAZEL: No! Oh, he is such a sweet kid. If she fooled around on him, he should let us stone her!
PEARL: He was going to divorce her quietly, but then, something changed his mind.
HAZEL: Baby Ruth?
PEARL: Gotta do better.
HAZEL: Godiva?

*PEARL takes the Godiva bar.*

PEARL: She says... it’s the Lord’s.
HAZEL: He bought that?
PEARL: Mm hmm. She says an angel told her God would cause her to become pregnant, and now he says an angel confirmed the tale to him.
HAZEL: Wow.
PEARL: And this is between you and me, but I am not surprised. Sweet as that Joseph boy is, there are skeletons in that family’s closet.
HAZEL: Really?
PEARL: Oh honey. Let me just tell you. They came from Abraham, like all of us, who begat Isaac, who begat Jacob, who begat the twelve tribes of our nation. Care to guess from whence his family springs?
HAZEL: No clue.
PEARL: Judah.
HAZEL: No!
PEARL: Oh yes. Judah, who through Tamar, his daughter-in-law, had Perez.
HAZEL: Ohhhhh!
PEARL: The same Perez who begat Hezron, who begat Ram, who begat Amminadab, who begat Nahshon, who begat Salmon.
HAZEL: Wasn’t he the one who married the prostitute?
PEARL: Rahab of Jericho? That’s her.
HAZEL: Oh my!
PEARL: Then Salmon and Rahab had a son named Boaz.
HAZEL: The one who hooked up with that foreigner?
PEARL: That’s the one. Ruth was her name. They gave birth to Obed, who fathered Jesse, who fathered our beloved King David, who fathered Solomon.

HAZEL: Not Bathsheba’s kid!

PEARL: The very same.

HAZEL: And you’re sure this is his family line?


HAZEL: No way! Jeconiah?

PEARL: That’s right, Jeconiah, who begat Shealtiel, who begat Zerubbabel, who begat Abiud, who begat Eliakim, who begat Azor, who begat Zadok, who begat Akim, who begat Eliud, who begat Eleazar, who begat Matthan, who begat Jacob... who begat Joseph.

HAZEL: Well, no wonder those kids are messed up. Look at that family.

PEARL: That’s what I’m sayin’.

.............. Lights down.