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Jochabed and Miriam

by LaVerne Craig

Scene I

(Lights up on the "garden" setting as Jochabed and Miriam enter through the trees by the "river." They look about nervously as they discuss leaving baby Moses.)

Miriam: *(whispering)* Oh, Mother, are you sure this is the right thing?

Jochabed: It is our only hope. Miriam, you know we cannot hide your little brother at home any longer.

Miriam: But a basket—in the river! What if it leaks, or tips over, or a croco...

Jochabed: Miriam, we have done our best to make a sturdy little boat for him. Nothing can get through all that pitch you saw me applying. As for tipping, well, he's too small to sit up and try to get out, and this lid will fit pretty tightly. Oh, don't worry, I made breathing holes in the top here. As for a crocodile, well, I don't think they like the taste of pitch. Besides, we aren't setting him adrift to sail down the Nile, Miriam. *(bends down and places basket in the "river.")* We'll just nestle him right down here among the reeds. *(gazes lovingly at the baby before closing lid)* I'm so glad he's asleep.

Now, you keep watch, and I'll be back in time for his feeding.

Miriam: All right, but this is all so terrible, Mother. This just can't be happening to us!

Jochabed: Miriam, (*puts her hands on Miriam's shoulders and turns her towards herself, looks her straight in the eyes*) do not question God's care for us so. Hasn't He miraculously protected our baby all this time now? Somehow I believe God has a plan in all this. We must trust Him and see. (*She hugs Miriam and leaves; Miriam crouches behind a bush; lights down on scene*)

Scene II

(*Lights up on house scene. Jochabed is standing at the table doing kitchen work. Miriam comes running in breathlessly.*)

Miriam: Mother! Oh, Mother, you'll never believe!

Jochabed: (*startled, but trying to remain calm*) Miriam, what has happened!? Is he all right?!

Miriam: Oh, he's fine, Mother, just fine! Everything is just fine! (*She is trying to catch her breath.*)

Jochabed: Well, what then? (*motions for her to sit*) Come, girl, calm down and tell me.

Miriam: (*excitedly, deciding to have fun with this*) The most wonderful thing has happened, Mother. I have volunteered your services to the royal family!

Jochabed: Miriam, you are sounding mad. Work for the man who is trying to kill our baby. Have you forgotten that we are all his slaves anyway? Besides, you know I have all the work I can handle now, what with home, your brother Aaron, and running to the river every three hours...which is where you are supposed to be...!

Miriam: Oh, this will make things easier for you, Mother—at least you won't be running to the river...

Jochabed: Miriam, please, enough teasing. Now, explain yourself.

Miriam: Well, the Princess, Pharoah's daughter, needs a nurse for her new baby.

Jochabed: Hmm—I hadn't heard that Pharoah's daughter had a child. When...?-

Miriam: She does now! Oh, Mother, don't you see? She has found our baby. (*Jochabed gasps.*)

Miriam: (*very proud of herself*) I offered to find her a nurse for him. She seems kind, Mother. I think she might know I have come to get his own mother.

Jochabed: Praise the Lord! Didn't I tell you God is protecting him? (*looks at Miriam thoughtfully*) Always remember this, Miriam.

Miriam: Yes, Mother. (*suddenly jumping up from her seat and tugging at her mother's arm*) Now let's hurry! She's waiting. Just wait until you see her! She's so beautiful!

You see, she was looking for a hidden place to bathe when she discovered the basket. (*continues talking as she and Jochabed exit out the door*) When she told her handmaiden to fetch it, I just about fainted!

(*Lights down*)

Mary Magdalene

(a monologue)

by Sandi Zimmerman Rebert

(This should also be performed as acting.)

Mary: *(dimly lit stage. Mary enters hesitatingly, as if embarrassed about her past)* Everyone knew who I was. “Seven demons!” people would whisper. “Mary Magdalene is possessed with seven demons!” You have no idea what I suffered: the torment, the rejection, the sin. My life was like the darkest night when not even the moon casts its glow to light the way. There was no-one to help me. Even those who might have cared about me could do nothing to save me; they were as helpless as I.

But then one day, *(pause)* one day I met a man who was unlike any man I had ever met. He claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God Himself, and He said He had the power on earth to forgive sins! Here at last was One, the only One who could lift me out of the dungeon of sin and despair to which I had sunk. Here was the Only One Who could pardon my sin and exchange my night for day, my darkness for light, my sin for His righteousness, my eternal punishment for His eternal life!

Yes, I believed what He said. In faith, believing that He was, indeed, the Christ, I asked him to forgive me. I begged Him to free me from the seven demons that haunted me. It happened that very moment They were gone, gone!

The forgiveness and cleansing He gave to me were so complete that never again was I troubled by those demons. My life was different, so totally different after that day. There was a change of direction that’s hard to explain, for unless someone has asked God for His forgiveness and received Jesus, God’s perfect Son, into their heart to be their Savior, they cannot fully understand.

Don't you see? It can happen to you, too. No matter how dark YOUR night, Jesus can set you free from the shackles of sin that bind you. He can free you from your sin, just as He freed me from those seven demons. And when that happens...when that happens, you'll find your night melt away into the glorious dawning of a bright new day, a newness of life.

I speak the truth. I know, for I speak from experience; it happened to me! (*sing: "A Sinner Like Me" or "Before I Loved Him."*)