

Let's Go

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



Theme and Purpose

This comedic sketch re-casts the magi as modern professors to underscore the point that the Christian life calls for a commitment to action. The commitment of the magi was extreme. They dropped their lives for a months-long journey across barren lands in search of someone they probably only slightly understood. They just knew that God was in the events of Judea, and they had to see for themselves. Would we have that kind of commitment?

We cannot afford to dismiss the call of the Gospel, as Bill does through most of the sketch. But neither is it enough, like Mel, to make merely an intellectual assent to God. Like Gus we need to put feet to our faith - in worship, discipleship, and service to others.

At Christmas we like to say that wise men still seek Him. But it is not just in seeking, but also in following that we become disciples. As Rich Mullins said, "Faith without works is like a song you can't sing. It's about as useless as a screen door on a submarine."

Cast list	Mel (Melchior) - Professor, wears reading glasses - excited about discovery but approaching it academically Gus (Caspar) - Professor - ready to commit Bill (Balthasar) - Professor - skeptic All should be dressed in sports jackets (preferably corduroy or tweed) and casual trousers with turtlenecks or dress shirts.
Approximate Running Time	7 minutes
Scene Description	A common room at a university
Prop List	Arm chair Library table or desk with chair Laptop computer Stack of hardback books Multi-page computer printout
Other Production Notes	None
Related Scriptures	Matthew 2:1-12; Mark 1:16-20; James 2:14-26
Song Suggestions	Screen Door (Rich Mullins), Follow the Light (Jay Rouse, Randy Vader), The Promise (Michael W. Smith)

(Gus and Bill are sitting in the common room. Gus is reading a book in an arm chair. Bill is working on a laptop computer at a writing desk.)

(Mel walks in, concentrating on a computer printout in his hand. He walks to between Gus's chair and the desk and picks up a hardback book from the corner of the desk. He rifles through the pages, runs a finger down the printout. He begins to make calculations with his finger in the air. Struggling to hold everything, he places the printout on top of Gus's book, interrupting Gus's reading. Gus stares at Mel in annoyance as Mel continues his air calculations and research. Finally, Mel goes back to the book, turns a couple pages, and then looks up while loudly snapping the book shut.)

BILL

(Bill startles, not noticing Mel's entrance until now.)

For crying out loud, Mel, you should announce your entrances.

MEL

Sorry. Sorry, Bill. But you know that star formation we were discussing the other day?

GUS

Mmmm. Yes. The alignment of Jupiter with the constellation... uh... Perseus as I recall.

BILL

(his eyes wandering back to the laptop)
Very interesting. We wondered what it might mean.

MEL

Exactly! Well I think I have figured it out.

BILL

(uninterested)
Intriguing.

MEL

As we all know Jupiter is associated with royalty and power. And so when it crosses into a constellation, it often foretells something about the royal house linked to that constellation. And in this case, when a new star appeared, well, it most likely means a royal birth.

GUS

We aren't undergraduates, Mel. We know all that. But Perseus is associated with the Jewish people.

MEL

Precisely. That's the puzzle, isn't it? The question, Gus, was why would the heavens have anything to say about some backwater province of the Roman Empire? Hmmm? Hmmm? Anyone?

BILL

(not looking up from the laptop)
Get on with it, Mel.

MEL

Sorry. Of course, you're dying to hear.

(Bill rolls his eyes.)

MEL

Well, I remembered that we had some information on file about the Jewish prophetic writings.

(picks up and shakes the computer printout)

Listen to this. This is from the book of Isaiah.

(reading)

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse..."
Jesse, in case you aren't up on the literature, was the father of the ruling house of David.

(clears his throat)

We'll resume.

"The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power... With righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth."

Sounds like quite a king, eh?

BILL

Mel, every nation, every religion claims their guy is...
the be all and end all.

MEL

Wait. Wait, Bill, it gets better.

(reading)

"The wolf will live with the lamb... the calf and the
lion and the yearling all together..."

BILL

(being sarcastic)

What? Is that talking about a king or a zookeeper?

MEL

"And a little child will lead them."

BILL

But how does any of that...

MEL

(waiving Bill off and continuing to read)

"The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and
the young child put his hand into the viper's nest."

GUS

Now that's just irresponsible.

BILL

And your point, Mel? What does any of this have to do with
the stars?

MEL

(holding up his index finger to emphasize
his point)

"In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner
for the PEOPLES."

Not a people but peoples you notice. Plural

"The nations will rally to him, and his place of rest
will be glorious."

(setting down the printout and taking off
his reading glasses)

You see, Isaiah predicted a king of the Jews that would
draw all nations to him and be a king like none other. Now
that's something the stars might just sing about.

(Gus and Bill look thoughtful, taking in what they have just heard.)

BILL

That is something, Mel.

MEL

I know.

GUS

What should we do about it?

MEL

Well, I thought we should... write a paper. There's a conference coming up in June. Wait. Not a conference. This has journal article written all over it. Peer-reviewed.

(Mel drops into a chair in the middle of Gus's next line.)

GUS

Paper? Journal? Are you nuts? If this is what you say it is - a king prophesied hundreds of years ago - a king of... of kings - well, we can't just sit here and write a paper.

MEL

Then what?

GUS

(jumping to his feet.)

Then let's go. Let's go see this king.

BILL

Now just a minute...

MEL

Go? All the way to Judea? That would take... months. We can't just...

BILL

Come on, Gus. You don't really give credence to those... those scriptures, do you? I mean, can you really put the words of some centuries-dead prophet on par with the interpretation of the movements of the stars and what it tells us about human affairs?

(holds up one hand as if weighing something.)

Scripture.

(holds up the other hand as if weighing something.)

Astrology.

GUS

Don't you think God could talk through a prophet just as easily as he can talk through stars or chicken entrails?

Bill

(pauses a beat)

No.

GUS

(exasperated)

Then just listen to the stars, Bill. They say a great king is born in Judea. And if Mel is right...

BILL

He isn't.

MEL

I think I am.

GUS

Then let's go.

BILL

Look, maybe we should do a study, first. I think I read about a new grant for astrological research. Let's get some data and analyze it.

GUS

(picking up the computer printout)

Here's the data, Bill.

(pointing to the stars)

There's the data. No. Our data is in Judea. We'll never know unless we go.

MEL

Clever rhyme, Gus.

GUS

Thank you, sir.

BILL

(starting to concede)

What about our classes?

GUS

That's what graduate assistants are for. Let's go.

MEL

Well, it was my discovery and all...

GUS

Yes, it was, Mel. And imagine how much better that journal article will be when we add... field research. You'd be the lead author, you know.

MEL

That would look good on my vita.

GUS

So...

BILL

(giving one last objection before giving in)

Do you even know where to go in Judea?

GUS

Jerusalem is the capital... I think. I was in Damascus once for a conference. It's not far from there.

MEL

(shuffling through the computer printouts and then finding the right paper.)

Yes, Jerusalem. And the current king is... one... Herod. Ooh - Herod the Great they call him.

BILL

(impressed)

Oh, Herod the Great. Well, if he's great, I'm sure he'll be as excited as we are at having such an amazing heir to his throne.

GUS

Sounds like a delightful man. Are we agreed then? Road trip.

MEL

(slaps his thighs and stands)

Road trip. Bill?

BILL

Okay. Road Trip.

MEL

(as they start to exit)

I call Shotgun!

Fade to black

Performance and photocopying rights:

Your purchase of this script grants your church unlimited use of this sketch within your programs and worship services. You may photocopy the script for each cast member, provided that the copyright notice remains on each page. Scripts and performance rights are not transferable to other organizations or persons and cannot be resold. You may not use the sketches for any commercial purpose. Usage rights do not extend to video, radio, television or film.