

A SIMPLY ABUNDANT CHRISTMAS

by Linda Allen



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Woman

Best for a younger woman who has a family,
but some wording could be adapted for a grandmother.

Voice of Reason 1

Older teen or adult.

Voice of Reason 2

Older teen or adult. This part may be combined with
Voice of Reason 1 if you are short on cast members.

Voice of God

Adult voice, preferably spoken on a
microphone from Off-stage.

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PRODUCTION NOTES

Theme: Distractions and busyness of the Christmas season become obstacles to worship and adoration of the Christ child.

Synopsis: The woman is overwhelmed by the work involved in the Christmas season. How can she possibly do all that is required of her for her family and friends, let alone the church and its activities during the Advent season? Pray? Worship? Adore the Christ child? There's no time! When Voices of Reason suggest ideas to her, she is adamant ... Christmas comes at the wrong time of the year! But, as God speaks through his Word, she begins to shed her distractions of decorating, cooking, cleaning, card sending, and present buying. When it's all stripped away, she feels like a shepherd ... simply adoring the Christ child.

Use: This play may be performed at any time during the Advent/Christmas season.

Scripture: I Thessalonians 5:18, Ephesians 6:18, James 5:16b, Acts 20:35b, Luke 10:38-42, John 10:10b.

Music: Optional.

Props: Woman is bedecked with a roll of stamps, tinsel, and a string of Christmas lights around her neck. A ballpoint pen is behind her ear. She holds boxes of Christmas cards, cooking paraphernalia, and a feather duster. Shopping bags loaded with goodies, including rolls of wrapping paper, are at her feet. A vacuum cleaner stands next to her. Voice of Reason 1 carries a calendar.

Costumes: Voices of Reason are in modern casual dress. Woman wears very simple clothing, with no adornment or decoration.

Set: None.

1 **WOMAN:** (*Enters loaded with props. She places the bags at her*
 2 *feet and the vacuum cleaner by her side. She stands with*
 3 *shoulders slumped, completely dejected.*) Merry Christmas.
 4 Ho, ho, ho. I can't understand why Christmas, which
 5 *could* be one of my favorite times of the year, has to
 6 come right at the busiest time of all — right between
 7 Thanksgiving and New Year's! I just get finished with
 8 the turkey and the fall leaf decorations and my
 9 pumpkin pie candles, and it's time to get out holly and
 10 reindeer. And the preacher plans a jillion things at
 11 church: cantatas, caroling, potlucks, cookie walks,
 12 special services, food drives ... And it makes it really
 13 hard to plan a New Year's Eve party and my New
 14 Year's Day bean soup dinner with forty of my closest
 15 and dearest friends. When do we get to enjoy
 16 Christmas?

17 **VOICE OF REASON 1:** (*Enters Stage Left with calendar and*
 18 *stands slightly Upstage of WOMAN.*) Yeah. (*Flipping the*
 19 *calendar to August*) Too bad it doesn't come in August.

20 **WOMAN:** (*Always talks to VOICE OF REASON 1 and 2 without*
 21 *looking at them.*) August? Christmas in August? What
 22 about the snowmen and mistletoe? And in August we're
 23 getting the kids ready for school and it's almost time to
 24 close the pool and ...

25 **VOICE OF REASON 1:** So August wouldn't be a good time.
 26 Hmmm. (*Flips calendar pages.*) Maybe June. There's
 27 not much in June besides Father's Day.

28 **WOMAN:** Snowmen and mistletoe, remember? And the kids
 29 are getting out of school and we're planning our
 30 vacation and ...

31 **VOICE OF REASON 1:** And you're opening up the pool.

32 **WOMAN:** Well, of course!

33 **VOICE OF REASON 1:** And there's Arbor Day ...

34 **WOMAN:** And Flag Day!

35 **VOICE OF REASON 1:** You're right. There just doesn't seem

- 1 to be a good time to celebrate the Lord's incarnation.
 2 WOMAN: Now don't get me wrong. This is a deeply spiritual
 3 experience for me, deeply spiritual. Sometimes I get
 4 cold chills hearing the little children sing "Jingle Bells."
 5 I just get overwhelmed, that's all. The timing is bad.
 6 *(Big sigh of resignation.)* But, it comes when it comes.
 7 VOICE OF REASON 1: I'm glad you have such a great
 8 attitude about it.
 9 WOMAN: I have lots of attitude.
 10 VOICE OF REASON 1: Obviously.
 11 WOMAN: Everything I do is for the Lord. This is all for him.
 12 VOICE OF REASON 1: You just hope he appreciates it.
 13 WOMAN: He sees my heart.
 14 VOICE OF REASON 1: Hmmmm. *(Under his/her breath)*
 15 Scary thought.
 16 WOMAN: I just need more ...
 17 VOICE OF REASON 2: *(Enters from Left.)* More thankfulness?
 18 WOMAN: Excuse me?
 19 VOICE OF REASON 2: You just need more thankfulness. Is
 20 that what you were going to say?
 21 WOMAN: I already did thanksgiving at Thanksgiving.
 22 VOICE OF REASON 2: Along with the turkey, the fall leaves,
 23 and the pumpkin candles?
 24 WOMAN: Well, yes!
 25 VOICE OF REASON 1: *(Flips to November in calendar.)* You're
 26 right. Thanksgiving is in November. Guess that does it
 27 for the year. *(Snaps calendar shut.)*
 28 WOMAN: Well, look at me. Look at all the stuff I have piled
 29 on me. Do I look like someone who should be thankful?
 30 VOICE OF GOD: *(All lines spoken Off-stage.)* Give thanks in
 31 all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ
 32 Jesus *(I Thessalonians 5:18)*.
 33 WOMAN: Who said that?
 34 VOICE OF REASON 2: God.
 35 WOMAN: God? Is he serious? Be thankful in all

- 1 circumstances? Just how are we supposed to do that?
- 2 VOICE OF REASON 1: You say, "Thank you."
- 3 WOMAN: It's not that easy.
- 4 VOICE OF REASON 2: Repeat after me ...
- 5 WOMAN: This is silly.
- 6 VOICE OF REASON 2: Thank you. Say it.
- 7 WOMAN: Thank you.
- 8 VOICE OF REASON 1: Now, don't you feel better?
- 9 WOMAN: No.
- 10 VOICE OF REASON 2: Try adding some more words.
- 11 WOMAN: Like ...
- 12 VOICE OF REASON 2: Thank you for the beautiful gift of
- 13 the Christ child. Say it!
- 14 WOMAN: Thank you for the beautiful gift of the Christ
- 15 child.
- 16 VOICE OF REASON 2: Thank you for friends and family.
- 17 WOMAN: Thank you for friends and family.
- 18 VOICE OF REASON 2: Thank you for all good gifts, because
- 19 all good gifts come from God.
- 20 WOMAN: Thank you for all good gifts, because all good
- 21 gifts come from God.
- 22 VOICE OF REASON 1: Feel better now?
- 23 WOMAN: A little. But I still have all this stuff to do.
- 24 VOICE OF REASON 1: Like what?
- 25 WOMAN: A hundred Christmas cards to get out. What a
- 26 chore!
- 27 VOICE OF REASON 1: Hmmmm. How do you usually do it?
- 28 WOMAN: I find a really good show on the cable TV channel
- 29 for women — a long one, you know?
- 30 VOICE OF REASON 1: Like *How to Be Pushy without Pushing*
- 31 *People's Buttons*?
- 32 WOMAN: Right. It helps me get through it.
- 33 VOICE OF REASON 1: I've got another idea ...
- 34 WOMAN: Forget it this year?
- 35 VOICE OF REASON 1: No, I was thinking maybe you

- 1 needed to spend more time in prayer.
- 2 WOMAN: More time in prayer? Are you crazy? How can I
- 3 spend more time in prayer? I hardly have time to pray
- 4 now! What good would it do, anyway? Do you think the
- 5 Lord cares about my Christmas cards when he has big
- 6 issues to deal with?
- 7 VOICE OF GOD: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions
- 8 with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in
- 9 mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the
- 10 saints (*Ephesians 6:18*).
- 11 WOMAN: But ...
- 12 VOICE OF GOD: The prayer of a righteous man is powerful
- 13 and effective (*James 5:16b*).
- 14 WOMAN: Righteous man?
- 15 VOICE OF REASON 1: You can substitute the word “person”
- 16 if it helps.
- 17 WOMAN: I don’t understand.
- 18 VOICE OF REASON 1: Let me give you an idea or two.
- 19 Turn off the TV.
- 20 WOMAN: Turn off the TV? It’s practically my life support
- 21 system!
- 22 VOICE OF REASON 1: Turn off the TV and turn on some
- 23 nice music. Maybe a little classical. Or inspirational. Or
- 24 even Christmas music. Are you with me so far?
- 25 WOMAN: Yes.
- 26 VOICE OF REASON 1: Light some candles.
- 27 WOMAN: The pumpkin pie ones?
- 28 VOICE OF REASON 1: That would be nice. Get your
- 29 Christmas list and your cards and ...
- 30 WOMAN: But I do that part every year and ...
- 31 VOICE OF REASON 1: And as you write each card, say a
- 32 prayer for that person.
- 33 WOMAN: Give God that person’s grief and worries and pain?
- 34 VOICE OF REASON 1: Wrap that person in his love through
- 35 your cards and your prayers.

- 1 **WOMAN:** Spend the whole evening in love and service for my
 2 **friends and relatives.** (*She begins handing the cards, stamps,*
 3 *and pen to VOICE OF REASON 1.*) **That doesn't seem like**
 4 **so much of a burden. It sounds nice. Thank you.**
- 5 **VOICE OF REASON 1:** You're welcome.
- 6 **VOICE OF REASON 2:** But you're still weighed down.
- 7 **WOMAN:** The whole present thing.
- 8 **VOICE OF REASON 2:** Present thing?
- 9 **WOMAN:** It's always such a disappointment. The gifts I get
 10 are so ... Well, I put a lot of thought into *my* buying. I
 11 spend time and money and energy. But I get so many
 12 things I can't use. Stuff I know was bought at the end-
 13 of-the-season sales last year. Sweaters that look
 14 shopworn and don't fit. Stuff to sit around that I'll have
 15 to dust. Little appliance gadgets that will end up in a
 16 summer garage sale. Towels with embroidery and lace
 17 that no one could ever use.
- 18 **VOICE OF GOD:** It is more blessed to give than to receive
 19 (*Acts 20:35b*).
- 20 **WOMAN:** Oh, puh-leeze. We've heard that one done to death
 21 at church.
- 22 **VOICE OF REASON 2:** Wonder why.
- 23 **WOMAN:** I give and give and give. And the children have
 24 rooms overflowing with toys they don't even play with.
 25 It's obscene, really. And the rest of the family doesn't
 26 need any more stuff.
- 27 **VOICE OF REASON 2:** Ever think about giving to people
 28 who *do* need stuff?
- 29 **WOMAN:** What people?
- 30 **VOICE OF REASON 2:** People beyond your little circle.
 31 People out there. People who are hungry or homeless.
 32 Kids with no toys. People with no hope. Those people.
- 33 **WOMAN:** What are you suggesting?
- 34 **VOICE OF REASON 2:** What are you thinking?
- 35 **WOMAN:** Maybe we adults could wrap up a gift for a favorite

- 1 charity and give that to each other.
- 2 VOICE OF REASON 2: Sounds like a great idea!
- 3 WOMAN: We could still get the children something, just ...
- 4 VOICE OF REASON 2: Not as much?
- 5 WOMAN: Maybe they need to start learning about giving too.
- 6 Maybe they could pick out a cause.
- 7 VOICE OF REASON 2: At least these are gifts that would fit
- 8 and wouldn't be in a yard sale in July.
- 9 WOMAN: True. *(She hands VOICE OF REASON 2 the shopping*
- 10 *bags and wrapping paper.)* I feel that another burden has
- 11 been lifted from my shoulders.
- 12 VOICE OF REASON 1: *(Like a parent to a child)* Now, what do
- 13 you say?
- 14 WOMAN: Hmmmm oh, yes. Thank you!
- 15 VOICE OF REASON 1: You're still carrying a lot of stuff here.
- 16 WOMAN: Yes. The cleaning. The decorating. The cooking.
- 17 VOICE OF REASON 1: Done while you're whistling a happy
- 18 tune and your heart soars with joy?
- 19 WOMAN: I wish.
- 20 VOICE OF REASON 1: Wonder what the Lord would say.
- 21 WOMAN: He doesn't know anything about cooking and
- 22 cleaning and decorating.
- 23 VOICE OF GOD: As Jesus and his disciples were on their
- 24 way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha
- 25 opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary,
- 26 who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But
- 27 Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had
- 28 to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you
- 29 care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself?
- 30 Tell her to help me!"
- 31 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are
- 32 worried and upset about many things, but only one thing
- 33 is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not
- 34 be taken away from her" *(Luke 10:38-42).*
- 35 VOICE OF REASON 1: Hear anything that spoke to you?



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P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

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