

IF I HAD KNOWN

A Christmas Monologue by Mary, Mother of Jesus

Written by Holly M. Younghans

August 2025

Estimated Performance Time: ~20 minutes

Includes: "Mary Did You Know?" (non-commercial use only)

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Author's Note

I wrote “If I Had Known” to give voice to the quiet courage of Mary—the woman who said “yes” to God without knowing the full cost. This monologue is not just a retelling of scripture; it’s a reflection on faith, grief, and the mystery of divine mercy. My hope is that audiences will see Christmas not only as a beginning, or Good Friday as an end, but as a doorway to redemption. Whether performed in a sanctuary or shared in a small group, this piece invites us to consider what it means to say “yes” to God, even when we don’t know what lies ahead.

~ Holly M. Younghans

Author Bio

Holly M. Younghans is a certified biblical storyteller, a stage and voice over actress, curriculum developer, and nonprofit leader with a passion for faith-based drama and theological education. She has her MDiv, with an emphasis in Biblical Studies and is a published poet, having authored the book *“Psalms, Hymns, & Spiritual Songs: Poems and Prayers for a Modern Age.”* Holly has performed and taught theatrically and as a biblical storyteller across diverse settings, blending emotional depth with scriptural integrity. Her work bridges creative expression and spiritual formation, inviting audiences into transformative encounters with the Word.

Performance Guide - If I Had Known®

Performance Details

- **Length:** ~20 minutes (3½-minute song + 17-minute monologue)
- **Format:** Solo performance
- **Time:** 30+ years after the return of Jesus to Heaven following his resurrection. If Mary was around 15–18 years old when Jesus was born (~4–6 BC), she would be in her mid-70s to early 80s by 60+ AD
- **Place:** Somewhere in Ephesus, likely lives in the house of John, the Apostle
- **Setting:** Simple interior; candlelit wooden table and chair, with optional digital backdrop of Ephesus at night
- **Props:** Clay or wooden pitcher and cup, with water in the pitcher for actual use
- **Costume/Hair/Makeup:** Suitable to the time period for women, includes a head covering and simple leather sandals, no jewelry. She is poor but cared for. Nothing fancy. Shades of blue and gray will read well on stage. Actress should be older and wear a long graying wig with the hair braided or loosely up (unless actress has hair like that already). Minimal makeup (just enough to not look washed out on stage).
- **Tech:** Body mic, soft lighting, optional digital backdrop of Ephesus at night through a window of a modest home
- **Music:** *Mary Did You Know?* (live or pre-recorded; non-commercial use only).

Ideal For

- Christmas or Good Friday services
- Advent reflections
- Women's ministry events
- Dramatic readings or seasonal programs

Booking Holly

Holly is available to perform *If I Had Known* live for churches, conferences, and seasonal events. Her portrayal of Mary brings depth, emotion, and theological insight to your Christmas program.



Now booking



Contact: holly@thybizenterprises.com



Website: www.thybizenterprises.com

The song, “Mary Did You Know?” should be sung live or a video played immediately prior to the performance, for non-commercial use only. Sung in whole or in part.

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know
That your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered
Will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know
Your baby boy
Would calm a storm with his hand?

Did you know
That your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod?
When your kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God

The blind will see
The deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the lamb

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would one day rule the nations?

Did you know
That your baby boy
Is Heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding
Is the great I am

Transition: *During blackout after song, actress enters, stands at the edge of the light softly illuminated by the candle, looking out the digital window. She speaks softly, not to the room, but to memory — and to God. As she transitions to the table, the stage lights warm up gently, giving the illusion of candlelight, but still enough for the audience and camera to see her face relatively clearly.*

MARY: *(Sighing)* Did I know? No... not at the time. I can no longer say if it would have made any difference if I had known. And if I had? If I had seen the shadows of Calvary behind the glow of Gabriel's words... would I have said yes? It is impossible to know, for I have seen too much since. Things my young heart could not have understood or made sense of. Things that would have terrified me if the details had been made plain. I think it must be one reason why God does not choose to share such things about the future... it can be, as our prophet, Daniel, observed, overwhelming and the source of despair.¹

[CONTENT OMITTED FOR PERUSAL PACKAGE]

[OPTIONAL SECTION BELOW SPECIFIC TO GOOD FRIDAY BUT CAN BE KEPT IN ANY TIME BECAUSE JESUS WAS BORN TO DIE]

I can still see Him there, you know. Not the blood, not the cruelty – those memories have blurred with the years, thanks be to Adonai. But His eyes... those I remember. The way He searched the crowd until He found me. The way He held my gaze, even as the world mocked Him. And all I could do was stand there, unable to reach Him. All I could do was watch as the child I raised bore a weight no one – least of all me - could lift from Him.

I remember the sound of the crowd, the weight of the sky, the way the earth itself seemed to groan. The hill, the wind, the shadows stretching long across the stones. His breathing — slow, labored — each breath tearing through my own chest.

But what lingers now is not the horror — time has dimmed that — but the sorrow of watching Love Himself suffer... and the peace that settled over Him at the end, as he committed his spirit to Adonai, and stepped through a door only He could see, and only He could walk through.

[END OPTIONAL SECTION]

[CONTENT OMITTED FOR PERUSAL PACKAGE]

Yes, I gave Him a body. A home. A family. A mother's love... but Love held me before I ever held Him, and Mercy moved within me before I knew what mercy *truly* meant. He has given me eternity, and I know that I shall see him forever... soon, I think.

But *now* I see... now I *know*... the 'unknown' was always in His hands and my "yes" was never small.

It was the door through which salvation walked into the world.

Praise Adonai! (*she kisses her hand and raises it to Heaven*)

Fade lights out.

¹ Daniel 10:2, 7-9