

## The Innkeeper

Isaac: Martha, have we got any more napkins the dinning room has run out?

Martha: No we ran out yesterday and the washer woman is running slow this week. Try hankies.

Isaac: I'm not giving our guests snotty rags!

Martha: They've been cleaned.

Isaac: This is a 4 Sandal establishment you know not some 2 Sandal dump like down the road.

Martha: The go out and buy some more.

Isaac: Hey no one mentioned spending any money.

Martha: You are the tightest Innkeeper in Bethlehem Isaac. How we keep our 4<sup>th</sup> Sandal rating every year with your short cuts, I'll never know.

Isaac: They are not short cuts they are business savings through economies of scale.

Martha: We are bursting at the seams Isaac. Business has never been so good, we need service not savings.

Isaac: You'll thank me when this boom is over. It won't last, as soon as everyone has registered for the Roman's Censors they will be off and we will be back to scrapping together a living from the odd travelling rabbi.

(DING DONG)

Martha: There's the front desk again. It's your turn to go.

Isaac: No rest for the business classes.

(LATER)

Martha: What was it?

Isaac: Oh another couple just arrived in town wanting a room.

Martha: Their late almost didn't make it for the start of the censors.

Isaac: Well they were probably held up by her state. Heavily pregnant and if I am any judge of these things she's ready to burst.

Martha: Carrying a child that late on a long journey, these Roman's have a lot to answer for. So what room did you give them?

Isaac: Room? Look around you every space on every floor is accounted for. What room would you suggest, ours?

Martha: Isaac Benjamin Bar Jacob you have not just turned away a mother about to give birth! Where will they go?

Isaac: They'll find somewhere.

Martha: At this time with everywhere taken. Even that dump down the road has no where left. They CAN have our room if they need it!

Isaac: I am the master of this house and I am not going to give up my bed for a total stranger just because you want to play the angel of mercy!

Martha: If you don't run back down to that couple & offer them a bed right now you can forget about coming to your bed tonight or any other night!

Isaac: Alright, alright I'll find them something.

(LATER)

Martha: So did you sort out that couple?

Isaac: Yes I gave them the cattle shed at the back.

Martha: You did what?

Isaac: They were very grateful. Besides women they are not exactly **royalty** are they?