

The Adventures of Delbert and Lello

**Chapter 50**

**“It was time.”**

The Promise of Advent: Jesus was Born in a Manger - Luke 2:4-7

Pops walked into the barn and looked around. He heard voices, but couldn't figure out where they were coming from. He checked by the hay...nothing. He checked by the tractor...nothing. He checked by his work desk.

“Aha! There you two are!” Pops laughed as he saw Delbert and Lello. Delbert and Lello sat on the floor playing with the manger scene they had been creating.

“Haw! Pops! Lello and I have been adding to our manger scene!” Delbert exclaimed jumping up and knocking over some of the figures.

Lello smiled and stood them back up. Then she walked over to Pops and gave him a nuzzle. “Baa. We've had so much fun acting out the Christmas story. Do you think you can tell us more?”

“Of course! I came looking for you just to do that. I brought my Bible. Why don't we go sit on the warm hay,” Pops suggest.

“Just like Mary and Joseph did!” Delbert shouted as he jumped into the hay.

Pops and Lello laughed and followed him over. Once everyone sat down and cuddled up to Pops, he opened the Bible.

“Right before Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph had to travel,” Pops began.

“Were they going on vacation?” Lello asked.

“Not quite. The king had ordered everyone to return to their hometown. So Mary and Joseph had to make the long journey to Bethlehem,” Pops explained.

“Haw! Did they drive?” asked Delbert.

Pops shook his head no and said, “There were no cars back then. Mary and Joseph had to walk.”

Lello shook her head sadly. "Oh dear. I bet Mary was so tired."

"I'm sure she was. And when they got to Bethlehem they couldn't find a place to sleep," Pops added.

"Haw!" Delbert exclaimed his mouth wide open. "What did they do?"

"Someone let them sleep in a manger, or barn," Pops said.

"Kind of like this one?" Lello asked looking around lovingly at Pops' barn.

"Yes. And that's where baby Jesus was born," Pops finished.

Delbert and Lello sat quietly for a few moments and looked around at the barn. They thought about the long walk Mary and Joseph took. They thought about not being able to find a place to sleep. They thought about someone offering their barn to Mary and Joseph. And they thought about baby Jesus spending His first night in a manger.

Pops watched them carefully. After a while he said, "Would you like me to help you with your manger scene?"

"Haw! Yes! We need to make a Joseph!" Delbert said jumping up and running back over to the work desk.

"Baa. Then we can make our manger characters travel all around looking for a place to sleep," Lello added excitedly.

"Oh! And when you find the manger you can say. 'It was time,'" Pops suggested.

With Pops' help, Delbert and Lello each made a Joseph figure for their manger scenes and acted out Mary and Joseph's long journey. When they got to the manger they had built both Delbert and Lello shouted, "It was time!" Pops clapped in approval.

"Let's go find Granny B. You can show her what you've made," Pops said. The three friends walked out of the barn and headed toward the farmhouse.