

**"The Junk Man's Christmas Dinner" Preview #2**  
**written by Fred Passmore**

(On radio:) And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

**(Actions during the next paragraph.)**

Narrator: As an old Christmas hymn played on the radio, Andy's stomach growled, reminding him that he hadn't eaten all day. So, rousing himself from the recliner, he got up and opened the bag he had brought in earlier, which contained all he could afford to buy at the store down the road. His Christmas Eve dinner consists of a can of Vienna sausages and a pack of cheese crackers. But, as he lit a candle on his table and poured himself a cup of hot tea, his mind went back to the time he had went for Christmas dinner at the local shelter. He had decided to never go back, for he didn't like accepting charity. So, he had spent all the Christmases since alone. First he opened the can and put the Vienna sausages on his plate... then he opened the pack of crackers and did the same. Once he had arranged the meager elements of his meal, he determined to eat it gratefully, and prayerfully.

*(We see him begin to say the blessing here.)* Just as he was about to begin eating, he heard a strange noise outside. Listening intently, he moved over and put his head against the door... when suddenly there was a bang, as if someone had thrown themselves against it! For a moment, he was scared... maybe it was someone come to rob him! That was all he needed, he thought... to lose what little had had left in this life. He had worked hard to gather what little he could, by existing at the edge of humanity and salvaging from their castoffs. Then, as he looked around, he realized that nobody would want the stuff he had! Opening the door and peeking out, he saw someone slumped against the door frame. Quickly, he reached under the man's arms and helped him into the shed as best he could.

Finally getting him in, and closing the door against the cold, he began to see if he could tell what was wrong with the stranger. Not seeing anything externally, he shook the helpless man gently to try and bring him around. Coming to, the man is too weak to get up, but tells Andy that he had been out in the cold all day. He saw the light in the window of the shed as he stumbled through the woods surrounding the junkyard, and had tried to ask for shelter, but must have passed out.

**(Actions during the next paragraph.)** *Andy pulls the weakened man to his feet, and putting an arm around him, helps him over to his patio recliner. Grabbing his tattered blanket, he covers the man with it, then turns the electric heater toward him to help warm him up. Going to a small table-top hotplate, Andy prepare some hot tea as they talk. Pouring the tea into a cup, he carefully hands it to the man, but he can barely lift his hands to hold it. So, pulling up a chair beside him, Andy holds it for him, carefully helping him to drink a few sips. Pulling up a chair beside him, they talk as the man eagerly sips the tea.*