

Shepherds sketch

Two shepherds walk from different directions and sit so as to overlook their respective flocks. They speak in low voices to their sheep as they count them into the fold. They may call some of them by name and pretend to check them off on clipboards. (This should take 20-30 seconds).

The two shepherds then begin their dialogue while occasionally looking back at their sheep.

I hope I can get to sleep tonight.

Do you know what helps?

What?

(Laughs) Counting sheep!

Oh, you're so funny! Don't give up your day job.

Or your night job...

(Together) **'Coz they're the same job!** *(Laughter)*

(Pause)

Last night, I had to leave 99 of my sheep in the wilderness to go find one that had wandered off.

Yep. Been there, done that!

Then, we get 'em all penned up within these small rock walls and...

... we end up sleeping in the gate.

And why is it, you always end up sleeping on top of a pointy rock? I tell you what, my back is ruined!

(Slight pause)

I hear that there's people who live in the cities, that actually sleep in beds!

Huh! Don't believe everything you hear. How would they keep their sheep in?

Good point.

But / heard that they make big money in the city.

Where could *we* spend money?

I know... but I'd like to have some just so I could figure out what to do with it.

(Looking up) I just wish that God knew what it was like to live like one of us!!!! Huh, I wish he actually knew we even existed...

You don't think He knows?

(Guffaws) Like He's got time to be bothered with a couple of shepherds? Pull the other one!

Maybe...

If He knows, then why doesn't he give us a sign?

You mean, like a sign from God?

Yes!

And what sort of sign would do it for you then?

I don't know... Maybe three weeks in a row without having to track down one of my stupid sheep.

Three weeks is a long time.

Yeah, but I would know that it was a message from God if my thick-headed sheep didn't wander off for three weeks.

I suppose you are right.

Just something simple -

--Enter suddenly the Angel— (could just be a very bright light with voice over)

FEAR NOT!

--Shepherds look towards angel while falling backwards at the same time--

Is that an ...

Angel?

I think so!

I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.

--Shepherds look at each other in amazement--

UNTO YOU THIS DAY IS BORN IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD!

THIS WILL BE A SIGN FOR YOU: YOU WILL FIND A CHILD WRAPPED IN CLOTHS AND LYING IN A MANGER.

(Sound effect) **ALLELUIA!** –

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN, AND ON EARTH PEACE TO THOSE HE FAVORS.

--Shepherds sit dumbfounded for a moment. They are obviously trembling--

(Both use trembling voice)

Did you see that?

I think so?

Was it...

An angel?

I think so!

With a heavenly host of angels doing the singing bit?

Yep!

Wow!

You don't see that every night.

You certainly don't!

And how about that line - 'fear not'!

Yeah right! Fear not?? I'm shaking like a lamb who's been invited to Sunday dinner.

Huh! You should worry. I think I've wet myself! ... Still, warmed me up a bit!

That's disgusting!

Sorry...

Still, all in all, it was pretty impressive! Do you think that God knows we're here now?

(Ponders the question) Oh, I dunno. I'm still waiting for a sign.

(Rolls his eyes at his fellow shepherd and mutters under his breath) **And we wonder why people think shepherds are thick!** *(Then speaking louder)* **C'mon. If we hurry, we can go and discover this baby Saviour in a manger and be back before our sheep know we're gone.**

A baby Saviour? Never heard of a Saviour being born in a stable! I wonder what he's like?

Guess we'll have to go and look to find out!

Ok. Anyway, it's better than sitting around waiting for something to happen!

--Shepherds exit in the same direction--

Author unknown.