

a script from

231 WORSHIP

“Counting Sheep and Messiah Stuff”

By
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What In this easy to stage, fun and meaningful skit, two older shepherds reminisce about their encounter with the baby Jesus 33 years ago. They then reflect on the grown messiah they see now, who heals, sees the broken-hearted, and who never forgets those who need Him the most.

Themes: Christmas, Christmas Eve, Shepherds, Healings, Savior

Who Shepherd 1: Older Adult
Shepherd 2: Older Adult

When Near the end of Jesus’ earthly ministry

Costumes Period clothing

Props Shepherds staffs
Fake campfire. On YouTube, search for *“How to make a prop campfire for the stage”* and you’ll find a number of easy-to-follow instructional videos

Why Luke 17: 11-19, Philippians 4:9.

How Simple stage. The campfire is placed downstage center. If possible, have a projected picture of a star field during performance. Have Shepherds sit initially, and then also move around the performance area during the performance, depending on the moment.

Time 5 minutes

At curtain, we see older **Shepherd 1** and **Shepherd 2** first sitting around the campfire, facing the audience

Shepherd 1: *(monotone, a bit bored)* Yep.

Shepherd 2: *(monotone, a bit bored)* Uh huh.

After a beat.

Shepherd 1: Yep.

Shepherd 2: *(slight irritation)* You said that already.

Shepherd 1: Said what already?

Shepherd 2: *(matter of fact)* Yep.

Shepherd 1: *(thinks, then)* Yep.

Shepherd 2: You're losing it, you know.

Shepherd 1: *(thinks, then)* Yep.

Shepherd 2: *(throws up hands in frustration, then looking around, with urgency)* Hey, have you seen the sheep lately?!

Shepherd 1: Sheep?

Shepherd 2: *(sarcastic)* Uh, yeah. It was your turn to watch them.

Shepherd 1: Watch what?

Shepherd 2: The sheep!

Shepherd 1: We have sheep?

Shepherd 2: Yes yes yes!

Shepherd 1: *(having fun now)* Oh yeah, those soft and cuddly cridders.

Shepherd 2: Right, and so-

Shepherd 1: *(ignoring)* When I count them, I always fall asleep.

Shepherd 2: I don't care what-

Shepherd 1: *(still ignoring)* And I dream of little shepherds jumping over fences, one by one.

Shepherd 2: Can you please focus!

Shepherd 1: *(laughs)* I'm messing with you. The sheep are fine and *(gestures with their thumb)* they're out back.

Shepherd 2: Well, good to know *(with a tone)* Finally.

Shepherd 1: Yeah, out back. *(pause)* I think.

Shepherd 2: *(sarcastic)* Funny. *(then both settled in again)* Yep.

Shepherd 1: Yep.

Shepherd 2: Hey, how long do you think we've been doing this?

Shepherd 1: Sitting here?

Shepherd 2: No, this shepherding gig. How long?

Shepherd 1 *thinks for a few beats, then stands and starts stomping their foot on the floor, like they are counting.*

Shepherd 2: You're counting?!

Shepherd 1: Counting? No, I'm just trying to get the circulation back in my leg. *(keeps stomping)*

Shepherd 2: *(frustrated)* Why can't you just-

Shepherd 1: *(laughs)* I heard you, I heard you. We've been doing this for, I think *(pounds both feet in the ground rapidly, then stops)* 173 years.

Shepherd 2: *(sighs)* Never mind. Note to self, never ask questions ever, ever again.

Shepherd 1: *(being serious)* OK, OK, sorry. Maybe like fifty years or something. I think. *(pause, trying to be funny again)* Who are you again? *(no response, then sighs)* We should both be in the old shepherd's home by now.

Shepherd 2: Maybe you should, but I'm fit as a, as a shofar.

Shepherd 1: You're fit as a ram's horn?

Shepherd 2: Yes. *(proudly)* A mighty ram's horn.

Shepherd 1: So, a blow hard, then.

Shepherd 2: Yes, and *(catches the insult)* hey!

Shepherd 1: Hee hee. *(then silent, a few beats)* Remember our first night when we got that Bethlehem gig?

Shepherd 2: I remember. *(skeptical)* I hate to ask, but how long ago was that?

Shepherd 1: I'm thinkin' 30, or 33 years or something. *(gets a look)* Serious!

Shepherd 2: OK, sounds about right. *(pause)* Yeah, hard to forget that night.

Shepherd 1: What a show. The angels. The announcement. The singing. Remember, we even asked the other guys if all that, like, happened every night?!

Shepherd 2: *(laughs)* Right! Then, running into town and finding the manger.

Shepherd 1: The baby.

Shepherd 2: *(tenderly)* He was so small, and yet, so big. Metaphorically speaking.

Shepherd 1: *(with a smile)* Who's speaking?

Shepherd 2: *(ignoring)* And look at him now. All grown up. We've seen him out there. Preaching. Healing. Teaching. Being the Messiah, doing lots of, uh, messiah stuff.

Shepherd 1: *(pause, intrigued)* Hey, do you think he'd remember us?

Shepherd 2: *(can't believe)* What?!

Shepherd 1: *(excited, with energy)* You know, if we show up at one of his rallies, and not standing in the back this time, but going up front *(pretending to address Jesus, loud voice, waving)* Yo, Jesus! Over here! Yeah, the old shepherds with the Cedar of Lebanon walkers. Remember us?

Shepherd 2: *(incredulous)* How could he possibly remember-

Shepherd 1: *(ignoring, still pretending to address Jesus)* Sorry for the way we smelled that night you were born, Lord. That angel really scared us, you know, and well, we're pretty gamey to begin with. Anyway, we came and adored you. Remember? You stretched out your little arms to me? *(with pride, to **Shepherd 2**)* I was the one you liked the best.

Shepherd 2: You wish! He smiled at me first.

Shepherd 1: *(flat)* That was gas. *(**Shepherd 2** throws up their hands in frustration and both quiet for a beat, then to **Shepherd 2**, with a slight smirk)* Do you think he still sleeps in a stable now and then? For old time's sake? We could ask him when we see him.

Shepherd 2: No and he won't remember us. Anyway, he has more important things to do. So don't bother him.

Shepherd 1: *(disappointed)* Fine. *(pause, now contemplative)* Important things.

Shepherd 2: *(firm)* Yes.

Shepherd 1: *(pause, remembering)* I remember one time when I saw him recently. You were doing something somewhere and it was just me. Anyway, there were like ten lepers who wanted to be healed and-

Shepherd 2: *(interrupts)* Wait, where was I?

Shepherd 1: Counting sheep. Literally and figuratively.

Shepherd 2: Sounds right.

Shepherd 1: So, there were ten lepers-

Shepherd 2: Ten? Seems like a lot of lepers.

Shepherd 1: Don't know, never counted lepers. *(quick pause, then)* Anyway. There were ten lepers, who wanted to be healed. They kept their distance but yelled to Jesus that they wanted to be healed. Jesus told them to go show themselves to the priests, and they all left. A lot of us were confused. Why'd Jesus do that? The priests couldn't heal them. But just a little bit later, one of the lepers came back, all excited, and ran to Jesus, saying he and the rest were healed, and this leper...well, former leper...wanted to thank Jesus. I thought to myself, that one remembered...remembered who healed him. Who cared. Who saw him. Who had compassion.

Shepherd 2: *(quiet)* Yes.

Shepherd 1: *(longer pause, then)* Remember when I said I wanted to see if he'd remember us-

Shepherd 2: *(interrupting and with a tone)* Not *this* again.

Shepherd 1: No, no...I mean, I was kidding. Kind of. But, well. I have a feeling He won't forget.

Shepherd 2: Huh?

Shepherd 1: He won't forget us. All of us.

Shepherd 2: *(confused)* All of us?

Shepherd 1: Like with the lepers. He cares. He sees. He has compassion. He heals. He remembers who he is, and he remembers why He's here. And doesn't forget who we are and why we need him. He came for Us.

Shepherd 2: *(silent, remembering, then with a deep but respectful voice, quoting)*
Don't be afraid. I bring you good news that will bring joy to all people. Today your savior, yes the Messiah, Christ the Lord was born!.

Shepherd 1: Good memory.

Shepherd 2: Hard to forget.

Shepherd 1: The Messiah.

Shepherd 2: Doing Messiah stuff.

Shepherd 1: *(pause, reflecting)* I got a feeling he'll keep remembering us... all of us... for a long, long time.

Shepherd 2: *(pause, then)* Yep. *(new attention)* Hey, the sheep! You better check on them again.

Shepherd 1: *(having fun again)* We have sheep?

Shepherd 2: *(ignoring, with a tone)* I'm going to bed, I really need the sleep.
(starts to exit)

Shepherd 1 starts stomping their foot again.

Shepherd 2: What are you-?

Shepherd 1: Counting sheep for you. It'll help, promise!

Shepherd 2: Uggg. *(waves him off and starts to exit)*

Shepherd 1: *(with a grin, following him)* And maybe a little rams horn later to help you wake up? *(then imitates the horn)*

Both exit.