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“Hank the Herald”

by
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What Hank is a shepherd with a story to tell about Jesus' birth. This comedy succeeds with a deadpan delivery from Hank.

Themes: Christmas, Christmas Eve, Shepherds, Angels, Announcement, Jesus' Birth

Who Hank

When Bible times with a modern twist

Wear (Props) Hank is dressed as a modern shepherd—high rubber boots, tucked in jeans, outdoor jacket, cap

Why Luke 2

How This character was written to be very deadpan, meaning the lines are delivered in a monotone. Be careful, though, not to go too slow. Keep the pacing up, otherwise the dialogue will drag, and you will lose your audience's attention. The comedy is in the fact that this is the most exciting thing that's ever happened to Hank, but his personality isn't very energetic.

Hank can either stand or sit on a stool. Another idea is to have some hay bales stacked for him to sit on or lean against.

Time Approximately 8 minutes

Hank enters and addresses the audience.

Hank: Hi...I'm Hank...one of God's messengers.

I'm here because I'm supposed to tell you what I saw. That's a pretty easy thing to do, you know. It's not up to me to make you believe it. It's not up to me to make it easy for you to believe. I'm just saying. Doing what I'm told, just like a sheep.

They pretty much just do what they're told and go where you lead 'em. I know sheep. I'm in the sheep business. People don't much like us, sheep guys. That's okay. I don't much like people. I got the family. I got some friends. We're doing all right. I get to stay outside, enjoy the weather, take care of my sheep and myself and my friends and my friends' sheep and my brothers and my brothers' sheep and my friends' brothers' and my friends' brothers' sheep...and that's fine with me. 'Cause I like sheep.

Anyway, I'm not here to tell you about sheep. I'm here to tell you what I saw.

Late one night, I was up with the flock. It was me, my brother, my friends and my friends' brothers. We were all there. The only ones who weren't there were my father and my father's friends, my other brothers and their friends. Later, those guys were pretty unhappy that they weren't there. You probably will be too, but I can't help that. It was exciting. You missed it. That's why I'm telling you about it. Cause it was exciting. I'm excited just telling you about it now.

We were out there. Wasn't too cold. The night was clear. Stars were bright. The sheep were settling. One of the guys, Bert, started to sing. We told him to stop. For some reason he always thought singing added to the moment. He was wrong.

Anyhow, we're sitting there, and it got to be colder and darker and then, Simon, he was sitting across the fire from me, he says, "Now there's something you don't see every day."

He kind of points with his coffee cup and I was just figuring it was some goat or some big shooting star, or something, so I didn't look at first. But somebody at the fire said, "What's that?" And Simon, he just points again with his cup and says, "There's some guy all on fire over there."

So, I turned around to look and sure enough there was this guy or something. It was somebody for sure and he was just glowing. I mean he was glowing light like it was inside him. And then he starts talking, "Don't be afraid," he says. And I look around and they're gone. I'm alone. It was then that I realized I was lying on the ground...under a sheep. Actually, I was on the ground under three or four sheep. I was pulling

more sheep over me as fast as I could grab them. Then I realized that Simon and me had a hold of the same sheep trying to pull it over us.

Then the guy on fire says again, "Don't be afraid!" And I'm thinking not as long as I'm under these sheep. But he keeps going this time and he's saying, "I'm here to bring you good news! A Savior has been born for you. He's right over there in Bethlehem. I can prove it to you. When you go, you'll find a baby all wrapped up in strips of cloth and lying in a feed trough."

Well, I started to look out from under the sheep at that moment, but then it was like we were surrounded by an army and there was 10,000 guys all on fire and they started yelling, loud enough to wake up the dead.

"Glory to God! Hit the heights!" or something and "Peas to the ones God loves". Well, don't much care for peas, so I figured I'd just stay under the sheep until they were gone. The sheep I mean. I tried to stay under them, but they all got away from me. And finally, the guys on fire all left and I asked Simon where the peas were, and he told me I got it wrong.

And then we realized that the sheep were almost all gone, but then one of the other guys says we should go to Bethlehem and see what happened.

Well, we all kind of wondered about that for a minute, except for Bert. He can get all worked up at the drop of a hat. He just took off running. He's yelling something about how it's happened. It's here. We're saved. Ever know people like that? Well, that's Bert. He's always getting wound up over something or other. There was this time when he told us he had heard the voice of God. It turned out to be a bug had crawled up in his ear while he was sleeping. Anyway, Bert was gone like a mist in the wind.

We all kind of stood around and watched him go for a moment and then we got the young guys together and sent them off to round up the sheep. Then somebody, probably Simon, says, I think we should go.

So we did.

We went into Bethlehem and started looking around. Had to be quiet, 'cause it was the middle of the night, but we finally figured it out. We saw some woman on the street and asked, "Any babies born around here?" Turns out she knew about it, and she says she's surprised we even stopped to ask directions. Said the first guy just grabbed open every door until he found 'em. But she pointed it out to us. Just this beat up little shack behind this motel.

As we got to the door, Bert was coming out.

He says, "Head on back, guys, It's nothing."

Simon says, "Whatchu mean, 'nothing'?"

Bert says, "Well, I thought it was going to be the Messiah or something. I thought that was what all those fire guys were talking about. But it's just these poor folks, with their baby stuck in some goat's feed trough. It's nothing."

We all kind of stood there for a moment and then a thought perched in my head. "Was the baby wrapped up in strips of cloth?"

And Bert says, "Yeah. These folks are so poor they don't even have enough money for a blanket."

And then Simon pipes up and says, "But that's the sign, Bert. The guy back there, the guy on fire, he said, we'd find a baby in strips of cloth, in a feed trough. That's the proof that God's in the middle of all this. Those fire guys were telling the truth. This is not nothing, Bert. This is the whole thing. This is the real deal. And God let us get in on it." So we just went right past Bert and went in.

And there it was. The mom and the dad and sure enough, this baby, in a feed trough, wrapped up in strips of cloth. I'm just saying. Bert, Simon, a bunch of the other guys, we all got in. We saw it ourselves.

And then Simon says, "So...ah...look, they were right. Pretty amazing. So...what do you think we should do with this?"

Well, we all put our heads together for a bit. We told the momma and daddy about it, and they chewed on it with us. But then, Bert, he stuck up his hand. Simon says, "Just say it, Bert. Whacha got?"

And Bert says, "Well, I think maybe we oughta tell people. You know...just go out and tell 'em."

And we all agreed that that was the thing. Simon says, "But no yelling, Bert. Just telling." And Bert, he just smiled so big and he says, "Well, it is pretty exciting. And it's true."

And it was. Exciting and true. Can't get too much better than that. I got goose pimples just telling you now. I mean...it was big, you know. The whole thing. The guys on fire. The baby. The feed trough. And we saw it. Just like they told it to us.

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PURCHASE

Everybody was pretty quiet for a minute, just watching and then Bert starts to sing. We all told him to stop. It was big enough without him singing.

So, that's it. You missed it. Sorry. But, it's still for you. I mean, I'm not one of the fire guys, but I'm a messenger from God, sent to tell you.

Waits for a moment then concludes.

So anyhow, I'm Hank. I'm in the sheep business. I'm just saying.

Lights out.

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