

“Peculiar Parables: The Lost Scorpion”

by
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What In this modern-day retelling of the parable of the lost sheep, a doctor frantically searches for one of his precious (though venomous) scorpions that has gone missing.

Themes: Parables, Bible stories, Shepherd, Care, Jesus’ love, Student Ministry

Who Doctor Shepherd
Alex
Chris
Taylor

When Present Day

Wear (Props) Modern clothes.
A white jacket and possibly glasses for Doctor Shepherd.
Cell phone for Doctor Shepherd

Why Luke 15:8-10

How Doctor Shepherd is a sincere and down-to-earth personality, though at times awkward as the situation calls for. Alex is bouncy and positive, contrasting the Doctor’s reserved personality. Serious emotion is key as Dr. Shepherd reveals his heart.

Alex, Chris and Taylor can be played by male or female.

Time Approximately 4 minutes

Alex and students are chatting. Doctor enters.

Doctor: Um excuse me, has anyone here seen anything...out of place?

Alex: Hey doc! We're in a library so you'll have to be more specific.

Doctor: *(nervously)* Well, yes I mean...there might be...something...a...a visitor to the library that isn't...quite...human.

Chris: You mean like a service dog?

Alex: *(dawning understanding)* Guys, Doctor Shepherd is in charge of Arachnology on campus. In fact, he manages the world's largest scorpion museum nearby. So, if he's looking for something not human...

Chris: Someone lost their service scorpion? Is it trained to wait at the door?

Taylor: *(panicking)* THERE'S A SCORPION LOOSE IN THE LIBRARY!!!

Taylor jumps up, screams, and runs to exit.

Chris: *(scared)* Is it true? Is it poisonous?

Doctor: *(laughing)* No, it's not poisonous.

Alex: *(relieved)* Well, that's good. *(Gets down and starts looking on the ground)*

Doctor: *(matter-of-factly)* But it is quite venomous.

Chris jumps up, screams, and runs to exit.

Alex: *(shouts and jumps on the seat)* Doc! What the heck?

Doctor: Well, you could technically eat one with no problem or pet it. But if it were to sting you, *(chuckling)* well, it would definitely "rock you like a hurricane."

Alex: *(scared)* I'm stuck up here. I'm going to die in a library. I don't even know how the Dudely Decimal System works. I'm going to die in a labyrinth of smelly dead trees.

Doctor: Alex, can you please help me? You'll be ok, I promise, but I'm so frustrated and scared that I'll never see Red Death again.

Alex: Red death? Is that its name?

Doctor: The visitors that come to the museum like those kinds of names. It would probably more accurate to name him Red-Foaming-at-the-Mouth-Hallucinations-and-Total-System-Shut-Down.

Alex: *(sarcastic)* Oh that helps a lot. Sounds like you could just call him "Ragnarok": the end of all that is.

Doctor: The name was already taken. *(Alex looks even more shocked)* You can come down off the seat now. *(Drops head and voice as if admitting defeat)* I can look myself.

Alex: *(coming down)* I can help you, Doc. I'm sorry. Just got a little freaked out.

Both search in the area for a moment.

Doctor: Thank you. This is obviously very important to me.

Alex: Well, yeah. Someone could get hurt.

Doctor: Well, it's not just that. He's special to me.

Alex: Doctor, you have *hundreds* of scorpions, what makes this one special? Extra deadly?

Doctor: Alex, all my scorpions are special. To most people they are scary or dangerous. But really, they are the way they were made.

Alex: I never thought about it like that.

Doctor: But it's more than that. When you take care of something, it becomes special. I have watched them hatch from eggs, fed them, taken special care when they were sick or injured. I have cleaned them, studied their behavior, and measured their growth. They become special to me because of the care I have given them. Without me, they wouldn't be here. I know it sounds strange, but I love each and every one of them.

Alex: Have you thought about getting a new one and letting this one go free? It would be like having the same one all over again.

Doctor: *(getting emotional)* The prey this particular species needs is hard to find in an urban environment. And I can't bear the thought of losing one. Like I said, he's special. He looks like the others, but he's unique. You wouldn't want to let your dog suffer then just get a new one, would you? Same thing here. I love Red Death because he is Red Death and not any other. I need him back.

Alex: Well, let's find him! Come on!

Doctor: *(very sad)* Alex, I don't know. I think he is gone forever. I've checked all the places closest to the museum. The cafeteria, the science building. The boys' locker room, the girls' locker room...that was awkward...one of the dorms...and even the football stadium

Alex: Doctor Shepherd, you checked all that since this morning?

Doctor: Alex... *(pauses)* we lost the scorpion two weeks ago!

Alex stands still in shock. Doctor's phone beeps.

Doctor: *(looking at phone, then very excited)* YES!!!! Alex!!!! They found him!

Alex: Who? The scorpion? What's the body count?

Doctor: He was in the museum the whole time, hiding near the incubators! He was cold! *(Elated)* Hah ha! This is exceptional news!! *(Begins to ugly-cry)* I'm so happy. This is better than when they discovered 14 new species in a dump in Zimbabwe!

Alex: *(consoles Doctor)* I'm glad too. Believe me. I'm glad they found Red Death very, *very* far away from me.

Doctor: Oh Alex, I am so happy. I would like to give you Red Death's first offspring.

Alex: That won't be necessary

Doctor: Ok then, free entry to the scorpion museum for a week for everyone!

Alex: Whoa, Doc, won't that cut into your profits? And mess up your research?

Doctor: Alex, it's not about the money or our extensive collection. It's like one of my children has returned to me. I thought I would never see him again. I thought he was gone forever. How could I not celebrate and invite everyone to share my joy and see him? I want everyone to come see my scorpions and share in the celebration that they are here with us!

Alex: *(smiling)* All right, Doc. I'll see you there.

Doctor: You know Alex, we are doing a calendar of some of our exhibits. If you want, you could be a model. We are looking for help with our scorpions "Instant Misery, Utter Agony, Hurts like Hades, Painsicle, and Fishsticks.

Alex: Doc, what's the least dangerous animal you know?

Doctor: *(pauses briefly to think)* I would say sea sponge

Alex: When you open a sea sponge museum I'll come help. I've already got some names, like "Spot, Dot, and The Holey One"

Doctor: *(grins)* That would be great. I'll call you.

Both exit.

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