

The Christmas Dilemma “Shepherd: The Joy Dilemma”

by
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What This Christmas monologue introduces the shepherd just after he's been visited by the angel who announced the Messiah. His joy and excitement are bubbling over as he realizes what it means for the world (and for him).

Themes: Christmas, Joy, Messiah, Savior, Baby Jesus

Who Shepherd
Reader- optional

When Bible times with a modern twist

Wear (Props) Shepherd is dressed in some modern farmers clothes with a heavy jacket, work boots, etc. He has on a cowboy hat.

The setting is a well. If you are unable to build a well, then a small stool with a bucket of water and a ladle will work. Go as big or as small you want.

Why Luke 2:8-20

How The Shepherd is processing all he has seen and heard. There is a mix of excitement, fear, wonder, and nervous energy. He is coming from somewhere—the field where he and fellow shepherds witnessed the Good News—so your entrance should reflect that. Give yourself time as you enter, you don't have to speak as soon as you walk on stage. But don't wait too long or else it will get awkward. Paint a picture with your words and help the audience experience what you just did.

For more ideas on how to perform this script watch “Shepherd: The Joy Dilemma” at SkitGuys.com.

Time Approximately 5 minutes

Scripture to be read or displayed on a screen:

Reader: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. (Luke 2:8-9)

The Shepherd enters, takes a ladle, scoops water out of a bucket or a well, and drinks unceremoniously from it.

Shepherd: I seen my share of lambs bein' born, and its special every time but this...

Trying to comprehend.

That big 'ole angel tellin' us to go find a newborn Messiah...

Removes his hat, like he's remembering his church manners.

I reckon I never held a newborn. No...no...people don't much like how we shepherds smell. Don't blame 'em. Sheepin' ain't a clean business.

Back to excited.

I "cain't" hardly believe this is happening! I gotta get a grip. I gotta...I gotta tell people. That's what I gotta do...I gotta tell people I gotta share the news. I gotta let 'em know...

Spirits diminishing a little.

Who's gonna listen to me? It's not like I got much of a reputation to speak of. Nobody looks twice my way. And I'm gonna talk about an angel sightin' and the Messiah comin'?

Thinking it through.

Okay, okay...hold on, maybe I should get my manners on, that's it. And remember that proper way to talk that my mama rambled on about when I was a kid. Clean up a little, get the dirt out from underneath my nails and brush my—

Gets a little riled up.

Who am I kiddin'? There ain't no hidin' this man. Maybe I oughta just stay here. What am I supposed to do with all these sheep, anyway? Just run off and leave 'em? That goes against every shepherdin' code ever written.

Something strikes him.

Why'd those angels come to me? There's a hundred people more important than me in this valley. It just don't make sense. None of it makes sense. Maybe He wants things turned on its head. I mean you got a whole history of Him doin' that.

Maybe that's it. Maybe it's not supposed to make sense. Maybe that's what God wants.

'Cause the people those angels came to see tonight, well, we got ragamuffin in our blood.

Laughing at the thought.

And this seems like the most important news to ever shared on God's green earth.

Listing off what he remembers.

He said good news...good news...that's gonna bring great joy to all people. The Savior, he's been born today in Bethlehem. And we'll recognize him by a very specific sign: he's gonna be wrapped in cloth, lying in—and this was the real kicker—a manger. A Messiah in a feeding trough. Even my family was better off than that. I mean, we didn't have two sticks to rub together, but at least I had a bed to lay my head in when I was a kid. I've been waiting my whole life for this Messiah. And now it seems He he might just be more like me than I thought was ever possible.

Starts to sink in. He begins to soften.

I think that angel was a little off...that's not good news. It's the best news ever.

As he exits, he yells to offstage...

C'mon boys!

Lights out.