

Jesus at the Gate

By

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Theme:

This play shows the important part shepherds play in the life of the sheep they shepherd and point to how Jesus is our shepherd.

Biblical Reference:

John 10:1-17

Approximate Running Time:

15 minutes

Props:

Period costumes.

Cast of Characters:

Jesus: Jesus acts as the narrator in this story. He should be dressed in a simple robe and he should be holding a shepherd's crook.

Shepherd: The shepherd should be dressed in a simple robe and he should be holding a shepherd's crook.

Stranger: The stranger should be dressed in dark colors and he should speak in an ominous sounding voice.

Sheep 1-4: They are to be dressed as sheep and walking around on all fours.

Scene: Jesus is telling a story to the audience. He can either be standing to one side of the stage, in front of it, or he can enter and exit around the action on the stage.

Jesus: A shepherd's job is to take care of his sheep. He leads them to great places where they can rest. He feeds them good food and water. And he protects them from any animals that are trying to get them. Sheep learn to love their shepherd just as the shepherd learns to love his sheep. The sheep know the shepherd's voice and can recognize it without seeing him. The shepherd knows the sheep's sounds too. He can recognize his sheep just by the way they sound.

[The shepherd enters with his sheep. He is caring for them in a tender way. He is walking behind his sheep, calling them by name and giving them instructions like, move along there Bessie, or a little more to the left there Bessie, or don't dawdle there Bessie, etc. The sheep respond to his voice and do as he tells them what to do. As the sheep enter the pen, he closes the gate and spends some time settling the sheep down for the night. Lights dim as the sheep go to sleep. The shepherd exits.]

Sheep 3: Is he gone yet?

Sheep 4: Yeah. He's gone.

Sheep 1: Oh, what a day. Nothing but walking and eating, walking and drinking, walking and walking. Boy, are my feet killing me.

Sheep 2: Yeah. There are some days that I don't mind the walking, but today was a hot one and the walking was really getting to me. Boy, am I'm pooped.

Sheep 3: It seems as if the good pastures keep getting farther and farther away from our home.

Sheep 4: Or maybe it's just that we keep getting older and the walk seems farther and farther each day.

Sheep 1: Whatever it is, I'm sure glad it's time to go to bed.

Sheep 2: And I'm glad that our shepherd tucks us into bed every night. I like that.

Sheep 3: I'm glad we're finally back here in our pen so that we can get some rest. I'm so tired I know I'll be able to get to sleep without counting us again before I go to bed.

Sheep 4: It might have been a tough day, but let's not forget to be thankful for our shepherd. Today was another day that nothing bad happened to us.

Sheep 1: You're always talking about how nothing bad happens to us. What bad could happen to us?

Sheep 2: Yeah, what kind of bad things are you talking about?

Sheep 4: I was talking to a friend of mine that we met up with in a pasture today and he was telling me that there are so pretty mean things out there in the woods that are just waiting to hurt us.

Sheep 3: What kind of bad things?

Sheep 4: Well, there's wolves and lions and tigers and bears.

All: Oh, my.

Sheep 4: There are also other men who would try to take us so that they could eat us or take our wool.

Sheep 1: Do you mean other humans like our shepherd?

Sheep 4: Well, kind of. These other men are bad men who want to do bad things to us, but our shepherd doesn't let them.

Sheep 3: Is that what you mean about nothing bad happening to us?

Sheep 4: Yeah. There's a lot of bad things that could happen to us, but nothing bad has happened to us because our shepherd is there to protect us every day.

Sheep 2: Not to mention that he leads us beside the greatest pastures, the coolest water, and he takes real good care of this pen of ours.

Sheep 3: We sure do have a good shepherd!

Sheep 4: That's for sure.

Sheep 1: And I'm thankful for him too.

Sheep 2: Me too, but I'm beat. I'm going to sleep.

Sheep 1: Me too, good night everyone.

Sheep 4: See ya in the morning.

[The sheep all begin to sleep, one snoring. Then the snoring dies down as Jesus begins to speak.]

Jesus: Sheep find great security with their shepherd. They won't follow the voice of a stranger because they don't know his voice. They understand that they're better off with their shepherd and they won't follow someone they can't trust.

[The stranger comes to the sheep in the night. He is tip-toeing around and talking with a menacing sounding voice. He jumps in the pen from the back and moves to the front.]

Stranger: Hey there little sheepies. Wake up there little sheepies. It's time to rise and shine. *[He opens the gate.]* Come on, we're going to go for a little walk - just you and me.

Sheep 1: *[Waking up and yawning.]* Is it morning already?

Sheep 2: It seems like we just went to sleep and now we're getting up already?

Sheep 3: Are we going to get a good head start this morning?

Sheep 4: Hey wait. That guy's not our shepherd.

Stranger: That's it. Wake up. Come on. Up and at 'em. Come on. Let's get going.

Sheep 1: We're not supposed to go with him, are we?

Sheep 2: I don't think so.

Sheep 3: He's not our shepherd.

Sheep 4: I don't trust him.

Sheep 1: What do you mean?

Sheep 4: He's coming in the middle of the night and he's trying to get us to go with him. This just doesn't seem right to me.

Sheep 3: Yeah, where's our shepherd?

Stranger: *[Moving out of the pen and trying to get the sheep to follow him.]* Come on you little fur balls. Let's get going. Follow me. This way. Come on. Like this. Right out here, like you do every day. Come on.

Sheep 1: Our shepherd always comes and gets us in the morning. He's never sent anyone else to get us before.

Sheep 2: This still doesn't seem right to me.

Sheep 3: I think we should stay here.

Sheep 4: I'm scared. I wish our shepherd were here to tell us what to do.

Stranger: Come on. I don't have all day. I guess I have to do this the hard way. [*The stranger reaches in and ties a lead on Sheep 4. He then leads him away, leaving the pen door open.*]

Sheep 4: Help! Stop thief. Help! Shepherd! Help!

Sheep 1: We've got to do something.

Sheep 2: What are we going to do?

Sheep 3: Quick, make a lot of noise. Maybe we can wake the shepherd.

[*They start to bleat out "help," "stop," and "shepherd" in a baaing sort of a way. The shepherd comes running.*]

Shepherd: What happened here? Who opened the gate? Everyone here? One, two, three, where's the fourth? Come on, where are you? You couldn't have gone too far.

[*Shepherd starts looking around and then exits in search of his lost sheep. Then a fight can be heard offstage. A sheep baaing is intermixed with the dialog.*]

Shepherd: Hey, that's my sheep.

Stranger: No, it's my sheep.

Shepherd: Give me back my sheep.

Stranger: He's my sheep.

Shepherd: Take that.

Stranger: Ah!

Shepherd: Give me back my sheep.

Stranger: He's my sheep.

Shepherd: No, he's not.

Stranger: Yes, he is.

Shepherd: Take that.

Stranger: Ah!

[*Sheep makes a munching sound.*]

Stranger: AH!

Sheep 4: Take that!

Shepherd: Now get out of here and never come back around my sheep again.

Sheep 4: Or else.

[Stranger runs away saying, Ah! Shepherd and sheep enter.]

Shepherd: Are you okay, there little sheepie? Come on, let's get you back with the others.

[Shepherd leads the sheep back into the pen.]

Shepherd: Everything's okay now. You can all go back to sleep now. I'll be here with you.

[Shepherd lies down with the sheep in the pen. They all go to sleep.]

Jesus: I tell you the truth. I am the true gate for all men and women, all boys and girls throughout the world. All who allow me to be their shepherd will be saved and will be given eternal life in a place called Heaven.

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep and I have laid down my life for my sheep. I died on a cross so that your sins can be forgiven and can be with me forever in heaven.

Many will come and try to steal my sheep, but I will protect them. Those who know me will hear my voice and know the true way. They will read the Bible and know that I am speaking to them through the words written there. They will pray to me and I will be with them.

Are you one of my sheep? Do you trust in me? Today could be the day that you believe in me and become one of my sheep. All you have to do is pray to me and tell me that you believe that I am The Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son, the great shepherd and that you are sorry for the bad things you've done and you want me to forgive you and you want me to come and be a part of your life.

Then I will be with you and you will be with me forever.

- CURTAIN -



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