

WE'D BETTER BELIEVE IT

By Rod

This sketch is based directly on Luke 2 vv 8-20. Indeed the narrator simply reads these words from the Bible. He could come up and read from the lectern just as if it were a normal bible reading during a service. A and B are commenting on the reading. They could be seated in view but as if in the pews. There needs to be some interaction as if they are interrupting the reading.

CAST

Narrator *The bible reader*

A *Feckless commentator who does not know the story*

B *The voice of reason. Friend of A.*

Narrator The reading is taken from Luke Chapter 2, beginning to read at verse 8.

“And there were some shepherds living out in the fields nearby watching their flocks by night.”

A Very sensible, I do that.

B Do you?

A Oh yes. I'm on Economy 7. Electricity's much cheaper at night; it's much more economical to do your laundry then.

B What are you talking about?

A Well, he said the shepherds were washing their socks by night.

B No, he said they were *watching their flocks* by night. Forget about your socks – I should concentrate on washing your ears out if I were you. Anyway, electricity hadn't been invented; this all happened over 2000 years ago. Now listen carefully.

Narr *[Coughing. Looking at A and starting again]* “And there were some shepherds living out in the fields nearby watching their flocks by night.”

A That would have been tricky.

B What do you mean “tricky”?

A Well it was night – right?

B Yes, that's what he said.

A And at night it's dark – right?

B *[Losing patience]* Yes. And your point is?

A How could they “watch” their flocks – seeing as how it was dark?

B Perhaps they had torches.

A Ah, but you said electricity hadn’t been invented.

B *[exasperated]* Oh, I don’t know. Maybe there was a full moon or something. Anyway, all it means is that they were guarding their sheep. That was their job; they took it seriously.

A *[Slowly]* Right – because they were shepherds, like. So they were taking good care of their sheep – their flock.

B Precisely. They were clearly responsible shepherds.

Narr *[Emphasis on first word to interrupt A and B]* “**Suddenly** an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.”

A How did they know it was an angel of the Lord?

B I don’t know. Maybe he had a train behind him.

A What, an Intercity 125?

B Not that sort of train.

A Ah, you mean a steam train – as electricity hadn’t been invented. Maybe it was the Hogwarts’ Express.

B No, it wasn’t...

A *[Interrupting]* We could always ask Andrew Dow *[Need to insert suitable local or national ‘train buff’]*; he knows about trains.

B Look, I didn’t mean that kind of train at all. I meant an angel train.

A *[Puzzled]* Oh.

B And anyway, all he said was that the glory of the Lord shone around them. The sky lit up.

A *[cheekily]* So they’d have been able to watch their flocks now – if the sky was lit up. They could have done a head count.

B Yes, except that they were terrified, so they were probably cowering and shielding their eyes.

- Narr "But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today, in the town of David, a saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."
- A Was the mother of the baby a big woman then?
- B What?
- A Well the angel said, "I bring you news of great Joy". So the mother must have been a large lady, or was that referring to what she looked like when she was pregnant?
- B *[Losing patience]* The angel was referring to the fact that the news was good, and so would fill them with joyfulness. And her name was not Joy – as you'll discover if you listen instead of interrupting all the time.
- A Oooh, pardon me for living.
- Narr "This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."
- A What exactly is a manger?
- B It's a feeding trough used by animals.
- A *[thinking out loud]* I suppose it would be a *sort* of sign; a baby in a feeding trough. You don't see that sort of thing every day.
- B Quite.
- A Not a very pleasant sign though – seeing that poor baby wrapped in rags, and the smell of the animals must have been pretty nasty.
- Narr "When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
- A I thought you said the shepherds took their job seriously.
- B Yes, they were taking care of their sheep – "watching their flocks by night" – if you remember.

- A So how come they planned to abandon their flocks and dash off to Bethlehem? That wasn't very responsible.
- B No, maybe not, but it shows that they recognised how important the news from the angel was. They planned to leave everything....
- A Including their sheep.
- B Including their sheep, to go and see the baby.
- Narr "So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."
- A Ah, so the mother's name was Mary then.
- B *[Sarcastic]* Yes, well listened.
- A The baby certainly made an impression on the shepherds; he must have been very cute.
- B I think what was more important was that they found things exactly as the angel had told them they would be.
- A The prediction came true, you mean?
- B Yes, which shows that the baby was somebody very, very special.
- A In spite of the poverty of his birth.
- B Yes, it made them believe He really was the Christ – just as the angel had said.
- Narr "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."
- A They couldn't stop talking about their experience could they?
- B Indeed not, they were overflowing with excitement. They told everyone about it: their friends, their neighbours, ...
- A Their sheep.

B *[Without thinking]*... their sheep. Er, ... I'm not sure about the sheep.

A I've got it! We should do exactly what the shepherds did in their overflowing excitement at meeting the baby Jesus.

B What's that?

A We should tell everyone about it – baah none!

THE END