Sketch - What the Shepherds Did After

Cast: Three shepherds sat around talking. Bales of hay, toy sheep optional. Shepherds in a semi circle facing the audience. Towels around their heads and sheets for cloaks equally optional.

Characters: Shepherd 1 (Stu) is an action man / woman. Shepherd 2 (Bernard) is slightly critical about everything. Shepherd 3 (Mucky) is not very bright and a bit smelly.

Shepherd 1 – *(Munching some food).* I was thinking about December 25th again and all that angel stuff. Still find it hard to believe we were there for both events. I mean no-one would give us tickets for the 100th row back for the Bethlehem Cup Final but we got two front seat tickets for angels in the sky and then seeing the baby Jesus.

Shepherd 2 – Hasn't happened since though, has it?

Shepherd 1 – You're so negative sometimes Bernard.

Shepherd 3 – What was all the angels and then this December 25th stuff? Was that the night you were seeing things after you'd been eating those dodgy olives?

Shepherd 1 – No. Come on guys. It was the birth of the Messiah. It's not something that happens once. It's a massive, unique event. World changing!

Shepherd 3 – Yes that, I remember now. Quite a big night that.

Shepherd 1 – Quite a big night? That's an under-statement. Still, I'm glad you can at least remember it.

Shepherd 2 – *(Pauses. Looking at Shepherd 3)*. Mind you, you haven't washed since, I can still smell that night on you.

Shepherd 3 – Maybe. But it was such a special moment. I haven't achieved much in my life but that makes me proud.

Shepherd 2 – I still wish we'd taken a camera and got a picture of those angels. That shot would be priceless and get me out of this dump of a job.

Shepherd 1 – Get a photo? For starters it was a holy moment that no photo could ever reproduce. And secondly, you were shaking life a leaf under that rock. The only photo you would have got would've been of the grass.

Shepherd 2 – If I could afford a video camera I'd have been a Tik Tok influencer by now.

Shepherd 1 – The only thing you influence are the sheep and you don't manage to get that right very often.

Shepherd 2 – It's because I don't have job satisfaction. Move sheep from here to there. Then repeat. Every day. Every night. I want my life to have meaning.

Shepherd 3 – I enjoy being a shepherd.

Shepherd 2 – That's because no-one else will employ you. Especially after you were fired for feeding that baby John locusts and honey in nursery.

Shepherd 3 – He liked it.

Shepherd 1 – We're supposed to be talking about angels in the sky announcing the birth of the Messiah, then going to see the baby Jesus, not discussing daycare for toddlers.

Shepherd 3 – I like honey and locusts.

Shepherd 2 – That's because you're weird. You'll be wearing camels hair and a leather belt next...

Shepherd 1 – *(Shouts)*. Oy! Baaaa-bara, silly sheep, come back here. Look she's off wondering down the hill. Mucky, go get her back would you.

(Shepherd 3 walks off stage and returns a bit later). She's OK.

Shepherd 1 – So are you both saying that when we saw the angels and then the baby Jesus that it didn't affect you? It changed my life. We were one of only a few people that God chose. And who are we to be chosen by God?

Shepherd 3 – True, we're just regular guys.

Shepherd 2 – Well, we're regular guys *(pointing to himself and Stu)*
Shepherd 3 – Maybe. But God chose all of us to see the baby Jesus.

Shepherd 2 – They chose me and Stu. You only came along because you smelt so much like a sheep, they thought you were one.

Shepherd 1 – No need for that. OK it might be true at times but let's not forget that Jesus was born in a stable, in the muck. So Mucky was right at home with Jesus. Had he been one of your posh Pharisee types he wouldn't have set foot in the stable in case he got mud on his tassles or dung on his cloak.

Shepherd 2 – That song the angels were singing in the sky. "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests..."

Shepherd 3 – What about it?

Shepherd 2 – Not a very memorable title is it. If I was their manager I'd have given it a shorter, more catchy name like "Glory To God" or something. Didn't think much of the tune either, needed a bit more musical variation, rather than just harps.

Shepherd 1 – You are the most messed up shepherd I've ever met.

Shepherd 2 – That's because I've got PTSD.

Shepherd 3 – *(Stands up quickly and recoils away). P*TSD? Eugh... Get away from me, I don't want your diseases.

Shepherd 2 – So says the man who smells like a sheep.

Shepherd 1 – You don't have PTSD.

Shepherd 2 – I do and it's not a disease. It's Post Traumatic Sheep Disorder.

(Shepherd 3 slowly and reluctantly sits back down)

Shepherd 1 – *(Sighs and shakes his head).* Ridiculous. Listen can we get back on track. We're supposed to be talking about angels and the Son of God and here you are whining about sheep and smells.

Shepherd 3 – Do you think Mary and Joseph liked the presents we brought?

Shepherd 2 – We didn't bring any presents, remember. First of all our pay is below minimum wage, we're on zero hour contracts and the idea of a living wage is a distant dream. Secondly, you ate the gifts on the way.

Shepherd 3 – I was hungry. I wasn't sure how far we'd have to travel.

Shepherd 2 – Wasn't sure how far we'd have to travel?! We're shepherds on the hills outside of Bethlehem and we only had to go to Bethlehem. I mean you can see the town right there...

Shepherd 3 – But I got lost.

Shepherd 2 – Yes, that's the last time I get you to direct us using the stars. As soon as I said we had to head towards the Big Bear, you ran away thinking we'd be eaten. It's a set of stars in the sky, not a real bear...

Shepherd 1 – *(Stands up).* Guys stop arguing. You're missing the point. Bernard you say you want meaning in life? Well that event has given us meaning. We saw the Messiah around his birth. You were chosen for that. God chose you.

We talk about not having any gifts but what kind of gift do you give to the Messiah? But we brought what we had – or rather who we are. We brought ourselves and that is the kind of gift the Messiah wants more than anything.

We're nobodies, we're not famous, we don't have a social media presence and we're not Tik Tok Influencers. But we're the kind of people that God chooses. Not all the famous people, the beautiful people. He chooses normal people like us – shepherds with PTSD *(motions to Bernard)* and who smell like sheep (*motions to Mucky)*. He chose us.

(Turns to audience). And he, Jesus has chosen you. And now you've got a decision to make... Will you choose Jesus?

(Pauses. Freeze. Then all three shepherds exit off stage).