

Whose Sheep Are They Anyway?

By Michael Leathers

CAST: 2 males

Shep: Overworked shepherd, 40s to 50s, looking for help with his flock.

Tex: Efficient rancher, 30s to 40s, who knows how to move the cattle.

RUN TIME: 5 minutes

PROPS

- Clipboard
- Staff
- Pen

STORY

Shep has been interviewing candidates for an assistant shepherd to care for his flock. One candidate, Tex, is an experienced rancher who knows what it takes to move cattle. As they talk, however, Shep learns that Tex has a leadership style that's far from ideal for tending sheep.

THEMES

Leadership. Caring. Compassion. Serving.

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 5:2-3

Whose Sheep Are They Anyway?

(SHEP is seated at a table, reviewing his clipboard. His staff leans against the table. He's tired from interviewing candidates all day. He's preparing for his next interview with TEX, a cattle rancher)

TEX

(Enters)

Howdy, mister. This here the place I apply for that ranchin' job?

SHEP

It is if you're interested in herding sheep, Mr. ... ?

TEX

(Extending his hand to SHEP and shaking it vigorously)

Name's Tex. But you can call me Tex. And my game's rustlin' up cattle to get 'em to market. Been doin' it for nigh on fifteen years.

SHEP

I need someone who can care for sheep. That's quite a bit different than herding cattle.

TEX

Sheep. Cattle. What's the difference, son? You got a bunch of 'em here

(Gesturing with his hands to show movement from one place to the next)

and you wanna get 'em over there. Animals are different, but the principle's the same.

SHEP

I suppose a fresh perspective could help me better care for the flock. Let me ask you a few questions.

TEX

(Pulls up a chair and sits down)

Now you're talking my lingo. Fire away.

SHEP

To start with, why don't you tell me how you'll get the flock to follow you.

TEX

Follow? Son, that ain't no way to get a herd to market. You gotta push from behind. Whip a few of them stragglers in their lazy rumps so they don't hold back the rest of the herd. Let 'em know who's the boss.

SHEP

I prefer leading by example.

TEX

Son, they're sheep; you're the shepherd. 'Sides, if you're out there in front all the time, you'll never get to market. They'll fall behind, some'll start a-wanderin' all over. You gotta find the most deficient way to get the job done.

SHEP

You mean, efficient?

TEX

Whatever, son. And I'll tell you another good tip to get them miserable, flea-infested sacks of wool to obey you. You need the right brandin' iron.

SHEP

I don't think –

TEX

I'm telling' yuh, son. When you get that iron nice and red hot and slap it on their backsides, they know who's in charge. Worked like a charm at my last ranch.

SHEP

Where was that, by the way?

TEX

First Ranch of the Range. You mighta knowed us by our unique brand. It was the Sleepin' One, Lazy R, Flyin' A, Double N, Rockin' C, Dancin' H Ranch.

SHEP

All those letters. On one brand? Didn't that hurt?

TEX

Sure, it was heavy to lift, but I managed fine. Thanks for askin'.

SHEP

I meant the cattle. Didn't it hurt the cattle?

TEX

Who cares, son? They're gonna be burgers sooner or later. And a good brand makes it clear the cattle belong to you. You don't gotta worry 'bout some other shifty rancher a-hankerin' to get his hands on your herd.

SHEP

Well, I don't think you'll need a brand here. I help my sheep follow the voice of their master.

TEX

And you're tellin' me none of 'em ever wander off into the prairie?

SHEP

They do. Quite often. When that happens, I go after them.

TEX

What about the rest of the sheep?

SHEP

They're here when I return with the wayward one.

TEX

You're tellin' me you leave 'em unattended? Hoo-boy. If I did that back at First Ranch, by the time I returned the guy over at Second Ranch woulda had half my herd in his corral. Lemme show you a better way to handle that problem.

END OF SAMPLE

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