

"SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD"

A Skit by Greg Beastron

LIGHTS UP:

EXT. STREET - EVENING

A BUSINESSMAN stands on the street waiting for something, although it's not clear what. He glances at his watch. Glances up and down the street. And SIGHS.

A WAITRESS approaches him from behind and stands next to him. He notices her and NODS HIS HEAD.

WAITRESS

Is this where it's happening?

BUSINESSMAN

I suppose so.

WAITRESS

What time is it?

BUSINESSMAN

It's almost seven.

They pause -- a bit awkward.

WAITRESS

I'm Lorraine.

BUSINESSMAN

Steven. Nice to meet you. Say don't you work over at the deli?

WAITRESS

That's right -- I thought I recognized you. You're one of the suits that come in for lunch all the time.

BUSINESSMAN

(amused)

Suits. Ha. Yeah, I guess that's me.

They pause again.

WAITRESS

Weird, huh?

BUSINESSMAN

What's that?

WAITRESS

You've been coming in to the deli for years, but it takes something like this for me to learn your first name.

BUSINESSMAN

I guess so. Go figure.

They are joined by a CONSTRUCTION WORKER.

WORKER

You all here for the -- ?

BUSINESSMAN

Yeah, I guess so.

WORKER

Oh great. I'm glad I'm not too late.

A HOUSEWIFE with her DAUGHTER approaches.

HOUSEWIFE

Does someone have the time?

WORKER

It's not seven o'clock yet.

HOUSEWIFE

Oh good. See honey? We made it.

DAUGHTER

Is daddy gonna do this where he is?

HOUSEWIFE

I'm sure the soldiers on base are planning something as well.

WORKER

You're husband's a soldier?

HOUSEWIFE

Yes, his unit was called up almost immediately after it happened. He left yesterday.

WAITRESS

Oh dear. Are you okay?

HOUSEWIFE

Oh -- oh we're all right -- well maybe a little worried.

DAUGHTER

Daddy will be okay, won't he?

WORKER

Well, hey there young lady. I was a soldier once myself. You rest assured, they teach soldiers how to take care of themselves. Are you proud of your daddy.

The daughter nods her head.

WORKER

Well, you know what? So are all the rest of us here. We're all very proud of your daddy and all those in uniform that serve their country.

BUSINESSMAN

That's right sweetheart. All of us are proud.

HOUSEWIFE

Thank you so much.

DAUGHTER

But I'm still kind of scared.

WAITRESS

Honey, after what happened, I think everyone is kind of scared. At least we have each other to encourage one another.

A TEENAGER approaches carrying a skateboard.

TEENAGER

Is it seven o'clock?

BUSINESSMAN

(checks watch)

It's just about time.

TEENAGER

Bitchen. Does anyone have an extra candle?

HOUSEWIFE

Oh, here. I brought a number of candles. If anyone needs one --

She pulls out a number of SMALL WHITE CANDLES. A few of the group take one.

A YOUNG COUPLE approaches them.

GIRL

Hey candles! Can I snag one?

HOUSEWIFE

Sure, dear. Have one.

(to Guy)

And you?

The girl's BOYFRIEND pulls out a HUGE CANDLE.

BOYFRIEND

No thanks. I got one.

WORKER

Now that's a candle.

The businessman pulls out a LIGHTER and lights his candle. He then lights the candle next to his and that person lights the next and so on down the line.

They are joined by the rest of the CAST.

TEENAGER

So, now what do we do?

WAITRESS

I guess we have a moment of silence.

WORKER

Maybe we should pray or something.

BUSINESSMAN

Don't look at me. I never been to a church in my life.

WAITRESS

Me either.

WORKER

Well, I went to catechism when I was a kid. But that hardly qualifies me. What about you?

HOUSEWIFE

I'm on the PTA, that's about as close as I get to church.

BUSINESSMAN

(to worker)

I guess you're elected.

WORKER

(reluctant)

Oh great. Oh -- okay. (ahem) -- Lord? It's Fred. Fred Rollins. You know, on Greenmore Avenue. 712 Greenmore.

WAITRESS

I think God knows what address you live at.

WORKER

Oh yeah, right. Well, look God, if You're there -- we just ask that You would help those poor people in New York. Help the families and the workers that are looking for the wounded.

BUSINESSMAN

Don't forget the president.

WORKER

And be with our president during this -- this hard time our country is going through.

HOUSEWIFE

And the soldiers, don't forget --

WORKER

And our boys in uniform. Please be with them and help them if they go into combat.

WAITRESS

And the families of those that died on the planes.

WORKER

And be with the families of those who died on the planes.

GIRL

And the rescue dogs that are looking for the ones in the World Trade Center.

WORKER

(pause)

A--and the dogs looking for the wounded in the World Trade Center.

TEENAGER

And Mayor Giuliani.

WORKER

And Mayor Giuliani.

BUSINESSMAN

And the stock market. This is bound to have an impact.

WORKER

Hey, you know, I'm not a priest here. Why don't you all pray?

WAITRESS

No. No. You're doing fine.

Worker SIGHS.

WORKER

Lord just help our country deal with this horrible event and help us to be a better country. Amen.

EVERYONE

Amen.

BUSINESSMAN

Good prayer.

WORKER

Yeah, a regular Billy Graham.

Another pause.

TEENAGER

What now?

BUSINESSMAN

That's what's wrong with you kids today. You gotta be entertained every second.

TEENAGER

Hey dude. It just doesn't seem enough, you know. I have a cousin who works in the World Trade Center. My family doesn't know if he's alive or dead.

BUSINESSMAN

(ashamed)

Oh geez. Look, kid, I'm sorry about that.

The housewife gives the teenager a hug.

HOUSEWIFE

I know how you feel sweetheart. I wish there was something more we could do.

BUSINESSMAN

You could give blood.

EVERYONE

I have.

WORKER

You could donate money.

EVERYONE

I have.

TEENAGER

Everyone in our school has done stuff like that. What then must we do?

Pause again.

Quietly someone begins to sing "God Bless America". Soon everyone joins in and sings, softly.

The song ends.

Pause.

TEENAGER

Is that it?

BUSINESSMAN

I guess so. I guess we should just go home.

Everyone starts to blow out there candles. Some EXIT slowly.

TEENAGER

I wish I could do more.

WORKER

Me too. I still feel so depressed, you know. Like someone close has died.

WAITRESS

I know what you mean. Everything's changed now. The world'll never be the same.

BUSINESSMAN

It's just such a sad time.

DAUGHTER

And a scary time.

HOUSEWIFE

I feel so out of control.

GIRL

Me too.

TEENAGER

Doesn't anyone have any answers?

Everyone is silent.

BUSINESSMAN

I'm sorry kid. But it looks like we're all in the same boat.

One by one, everyone walks away leaving the teenager on stage by himself.

ANOTHER COUPLE approaches, carrying Bibles. The teenager stands to the side of them as they stop and wait to cross the street.

CHRISTIAN MAN

Wasn't that a great prayer service?

CHRISTIAN WOMAN

It certainly was. It was so comforting.

CHRISTIAN MAN

Boy, I'll say. I'd rather be in church during a time like this than out here struggling to find some meaning. You know?

CHRISTIAN WOMAN

Me too. I can't imagine trying to find peace in all this without Jesus. It's too bad more people don't go to church.

CHRISTIAN MAN

Well hopefully people will turn to God. Unfortunately, most people don't care. I mean look. Everyone has gone about there business, like nothing happened. Probably the last thing on people's minds is prayer. That's so sad.

CHRISTIAN WOMAN

It really is.

They pause.

CHRISTIAN MAN

Oh well. Let's go to Denny's.

CHRISTIAN WOMAN

That sounds great.

They EXIT.

The teenager is left on stage again watching the Christian Couple leave. Sadly, he pulls out his candle and LIGHTS IT again.

LIGHTS OUT except the teenagers candle.

GRAPH - "And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.' (Matt. 9:36-38)"

THE END

(Writer's Note: This skit was written shortly after 9/11. It may be a bit dated, but the message is pointed and timeless. – gb)