

THE SHEPHERDESS

by Patrick Rainville Dorn



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**CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS
EDUCATIONAL SERIES**

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Parable: The Lost Sheep

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SYNOPSIS: While it's wonderful that ninety-nine lambs are safe, Mary won't rest until lost lamb Agnes is brought back into the fold.

BIBLE VERSE: Luke 15:3-7.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 female, 1 male)

PAPA (m)..... An older man. *(39 lines)*

MARY (f)..... Papa's daughter, a shepherdess. *(39 lines)*

DURATION: 10 minutes.

SETTING: Papa's Fix-It Shop.

TIME: Biblical era with modern references.

SET

A counter with a sign saying "Papa's Fix-It Shop."

COSTUMES

Both characters need biblical costumes of robes, headpieces, and sandals.

PROPS

- ☐ Newspaper (optional headline: "The End of Times")
- ☐ Shepherd's crook
- ☐ Cudgel (heavy stick)

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Parables are earthly stories intended to reveal a heavenly meaning. They are by nature stories that people could relate to and which would inspire questions and discussion, thus providing the opportunity for revelation of the truth. We have brought these parables into present time where the listener can relate and once again ask questions, which will reveal the true meaning.

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PARABLE: ³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent” (Luke 15:3-7)



AT START: *PAPA is reading a newspaper.*

MARY: *(From Off-stage.)* Agnes! Agnes! Where are you? *(Enters.)*

Oh, hi, Papa.

PAPA: *(Sets down paper.)* Hello, Mary. How are you this morning?

MARY: Not so great. Have you seen Agnes?

PAPA: Agnes?

MARY: My little lamb.

PAPA: She’s wandered off again?

MARY: I gotta tell you, Papa. Working part-time and going to school isn’t easy.

PAPA: Why’s that?

MARY: Well, it’s like serving two bosses. My teacher gives me homework, and my employer wants me to keep track of like a hundred sheep. Nobody can do two things at the same time. It’s just not possible.

PAPA: And you’ve dropped the ball.

MARY: Worse. I lost my sheep! Well, one of them, anyway.

PAPA: Agnes.

MARY: My co-worker, Bo Peep, told me to just go home and wait for her to come back on her own. But that’s ridiculous. Sheep don’t do that. I’ve got to find her before anything bad happens.

PAPA: Maybe she followed you to school. As I recall, the last time that happened, the teacher said it was against the rules. Maybe Agnes is in detention.

MARY: No such luck. That was the first place I looked.

PAPA: So she is really and truly lost.

MARY: I'm afraid of what might happen to her.

PAPA: You love that little lamb, don't you?

MARY: Oh, Papa, I love them all. I know every single one of them by name. But when one of those wooly wanderers gets into trouble, somehow I care even more. I've just got to find that little knucklehead!

PAPA: How can I help?

MARY: Well, uh, this is kind of a big favor.

PAPA: That's the best kind.

MARY: Could you... would you be willing to—

PAPA: Yes.

MARY: How do you know what I'm going to ask?

PAPA: There are about ninety-nine sheep meandering around outside my shop, gobbling up my flower garden. You need someone to watch them while you look for Agnes.

MARY: Could you?

PAPA: I already said I would. Why don't you take them out back where they may safely graze?

MARY: Thank you, Papa. I don't know what I'd do without you.

PAPA: I hope you never find out.

MARY begins to exit.

PAPA: Mary, before you go...

MARY: (*Stops, turns.*) Yes, Papa?

PAPA: What are you going to do if Agnes is in trouble? I mean, real danger?

MARY: I don't know. I guess I'll make it up as I go along.

PAPA: What if she's caught in a thorn bush? Or has fallen into a crevice? How will you reach her?

MARY: I hadn't thought of that.

PAPA: (*Reaches behind counter and pulls out a shepherd's crook.*) Take this.

MARY: What is it?

PAPA: It's a staff. You can reach with this hook and pull Agnes out of pretty much anything she's gotten herself into.

MARY: *(Takes it.)* Yeah, like a thorn bush. Or a crevice.

PAPA: Or a bog.

MARY: Thanks, Papa. You think of everything. *(Begins to exit.)*

PAPA: Then there's the predators.

MARY: *(Stops, turns.)* Predators?

PAPA: There are a lot of ravenous things out there prowling around, looking for an easy meal to devour.

MARY: Like lions and tigers and bears?

PAPA: Oh, my. No. Well, sure. But I was thinking packs of wild dogs. Or coyotes.

MARY: *(Holds up crook.)* I've got my staff.

PAPA: That's for rescuing, not defending. You're going to need something with a little more heft. *(Reaches behind counter and pulls out a cudgel.)*

MARY: A shillelagh? In case we're attacked by rabid leprechauns?

PAPA: It's called a rod.

MARY: What am I supposed to do with it?

PAPA: In theory, you get between Agnes and whatever wants to eat her. When it attacks, you bonk it on the head and drive it away.

MARY: A coyote would have to get pretty close before I could bonk it with a stick. Couldn't I have something with a little range? Like a slingshot or something?

PAPA: Do you have time to learn how to use a slingshot?

MARY: Actually, no. *(Takes the rod.)* I guess it's the rod. *(Raises staff.)* And the staff.

PAPA: They'll be a comfort to you. And to Agnes.

MARY: Maybe I won't need to use them.

PAPA: It's better to be prepared and not need them, than to need them and be without.

MARY: This shepherding thing carries a lot of responsibility.

PAPA: Only if you want to be a good one.

MARY: I do. I really do. No matter what, I've got to find Agnes and bring her back.

PAPA: No matter what?

MARY: Well, sure.



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SHEPHERDESS

by Patrick Dorn.

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