

Good Will Two Men

By Brian Shoop

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Lifelong friends Will and Glenn have a long history of producing the Christmas pageant together at their church. Following the hiring of a young pastor with new ideas (including a Santa-themed Christmas pageant), Will and Glenn found themselves on opposite sides of the debate, and the rift has cut off all communication between them for two years running. Now Will no longer attends church and calls his friend a backstabber.

Glenn's daughter Roberta is determined to bring the two lost friends back to each other. She takes on directing the Christmas pageant, *The Sheepish Shepherd*, and recruits the help of her father, Will, and her sweet office receptionist, Mrs. Kekstien. Old wounds soon reopen, and the pageant seems destined for calamity. A missing manger, ad-libbed lines, and young shepherds in sneakers soon bring out the worst in Will, but a few innocent questions from a shepherd begin to remind him of the truth of Christmas. When Will hears that Glenn is suffering from heart failure, he returns to his faith and remembers the gift of Christmas.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

Good Will Two Men was performed December 9 and 11, 2011, at Tulsa Bible Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 M, 2 W, 4 Boys, 2 Girls, 4 Boys or Girls, extras possible)

WILL BARTON

ROBERTA SCHWARTZ

GLENN SCHWARTZ

MRS. KEKSTIEN

PASTOR DONNER

SHEPHERD 1: JOSIAH

HEAD SHEPHERD: BILLY HENDERSON

SHEPHERD 2

SHEPHERD 3

SHEPHERD 4

COW / ANGEL

MARY: ROBYN

JOSEPH: JIMMY

INNKEEPER

NARRATOR

EXTRAS possible in Scenes 2 and 3.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: Will's dated retirement living apartment.

Scene 2: A few weeks later at the final dress rehearsal.

Scene 3: Backstage the night of the Christmas pageant.

Scene 4: Will's apartment a few days later.

PROPS

Coffee mug, dated cell phone, 2 grocery bags, newspaper, church bulletin, box of photographs (on table), tea, mugs, current cell phone, shirt, notebook or papers, Bible, backpack with papers, pencils, ruler, books, asthma inhaler, pillow, manger, peanut butter sandwich, wash tub, laundry basket, straw, baby doll, photo, bag of coffee.

SFX

Phone ringing, doorbell ringing, knock, microwave beeping, polite applause, Christmas bumper music, asthma inhaler puff or inhale.

Good Will Two Men

Scene 1

(AT RISE: LIGHTS up on a dated retirement living apartment. WILL BARTON enters from the kitchen and stands in front of the television. He wears a bathrobe and holds a coffee mug.)

TV EVANGELIST: *(V.O.)* ...and what a wonderful time of the year to be in the Holy Land. See the very place where the Christ child lay. You can almost hear Mary's gentle lullaby accompanied by bleating lambs and cooing doves. It's like you're breathing the same air that Jesus breathed two thousand years ago.

WILL: Yeah, come to a war zone and smell sheep. Great idea.

TV EVANGELIST: *(V.O.)* You can make your reservation today to spend Christmas with Juanita and me in beautiful Bethlehem. Imagine singing carols on the same hillside where those simple shepherds first heard the angel proclaim, "Peace on Earth, to men of good will."

WILL: *(Raises his cup in a toast.)* To good Will.

(WILL tries to sip his coffee but finds the cup empty. The tour sales video has begun a choir rendition of "O Little Town of Bethlehem." He sets down his cup and opens a cabinet, then another, until he's gone through everything.)

WILL: *(Cont'd.)* One pleasure I have left in my life and they try to keep it from me. Coffee, coffee, coffee. *(Shouting.)* I need more coffee!

(SFX: Phone ringing. WILL moves to answer the door.)

WILL: *(Cont'd.)* Who is it? Are you from the cable?

(SFX: The phone rings again and WILL realizes his mistake.)

He moves to his chair, looks around the side table and under the cushion. The phone continues to ring.)

WILL: *(Cont'd.)* Alright. I'm working on it. Just keep your shirt on. *(He slides a hand in a pocket and produces an ancient cell phone.)* Alright already! Hello!

(As HE speaks, he shuffles to the TV and turns it off.)

WILL: *(Cont'd.)* What? You're gonna have to speak up, they gave me this toy phone and I can't... What's that? Marcus from the lobby? With the hippy hair Marcus? Hey, since you called, when are you gonna fix my cable? My cable. I don't know, it's broken. All I get is preachers and Holy Land tours. What's that? Who is? Complaining that what's too loud? My TV? My TV's too loud? I can barely hear it! She's just old. Some people just aren't happy unless... don't... just tell her... well, you tell her to just mind her own business. What? Oh no you don't, I'm not telling her nothing. Just put down your computer game and go earn your money. Hey, and another thing. I'm out of coffee. I want my coffee. Go get me some. What do you mean you can't leave the lobby desk? Why do I care? Just run to the store and get me more. Hello?

(SFX: Doorbell rings.)

WILL: *(Cont'd.)* Hello! Listen I gotta go answer the door. Don't forget my coffee. Can you hear me? Hello? Stupid telephone.

ROBERTA: *(OS.)* Uncle Will! Open the door, it's Roberta!

WILL: Who is it?

ROBERTA: *(OS.)* It's me, Uncle Will, Roberta. Let me in. I brought you something.

WILL: *(Finally moving toward the door.)* Are you from the cable? *(Will wiggles the door handle. It doesn't open.)* Hold on, I gotta find the key. Just wait a minute, I'll get the key. Don't leave. I need my cable.

End of Freeview

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