

Shep & Miser

Miser: Ugh...I'm seeing visions of my past...ugh...Where am I?

Shep: Just outside of Bethlehem.

Miser: You! You're that crazy shepherd.

Shep: The name's Shep.

Miser: Where did you take me, Shep? Where am I?

Shep: I told you. Just outside of Bethlehem. The messiah has come!

Miser: The messiah! Here?

Shep: There. Come!

Miser: I am not going over there.

Shep: What? Why?

Miser: I've already explained this to you, Shep. I am a tax-collector. I keep to myself and others like me.

Shep: why?

Miser: That's how it is, Shep. I know I am not worthy to go to temple. I know I'm not worthy to be in their presence...

Shep: Their? I don't understand, Miser. What do they have to do with you and the Messiah? He has come for all! You are included in that.

Miser: (*chuckles*) You are so idealistic. You just don't understand how this works. "All" doesn't include me. When they talk about sinners in the synagogue, you know they differentiate between the two. "The tax-collectors and the sinners"

Shep: I see.

Miser: No, you don't. I am a greedy man, Shep. The synagogue doesn't separate us simply because of title, but because of deed. I have robbed so many people...including those up ahead. I know my place, and its nowhere near there.

Shep: you have *robbed* so many people. That was in the past. This is today. This is now.

Miser: Shep. It doesn't work that way.

Shep: Why not? Repent now, for the kingdom of God has come today! Let's go.

Miser: Shep, all my past sins do not just magically go away. (*sits*)

Shep: what are you doing?

Miser: Waiting for this night to end.

Shep: You will not come with me to the birth? How can you not be excited?

Miser: would you ask a man condemned to death the same thing?

Shep: if his case had not yet been heard.