<u>ONE MAN AND HIS DOG</u>
By Rod

This sketch is based on Matthew 25: 31-46 – the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats. It uses the old TV programme One Man And His Dog which may be familiar to older folk. The humour comes mainly from a person playing the part of the dog – and later one as a runaway goat. The serious impact comes at the end when the church is divided in two.

CAST
Phil Dribble   The presenter
Ewan Ramsbottom Expert commentator
Joshua Davidson   The shepherd
Shep   His sheepdog
Goat

N.B.
- *As well as shouting commands, Joshua could have a whistle that he could use intermittently to send commands to his dog*
- *There needs to be a post where Joshua can stand. Attached to the post is a long rope that he can use to 'pen in' one side of the church.*
- *Phil and Ewan are separate (perhaps in the pulpit) as they are commentating on the events they see.*

Phil   Good morning, everyone, and welcome to another edition of 'One man and his dog'. I'm Phil Dribble and alongside me is Ewan Ramsbottom.

Ewan   'Ullo everyone.

Phil   Ewan will be explaining what is happening as we watch the shepherds in action.

Ewan   And their dogs.

Phil   Yes, of course... the shepherds and their dogs in action. So, who have we got today, Ewan?

Ewan   I think we're in for a real treat today, Phil, because it's the very experienced pairing of Joshua Davidson and his border collie Shep.
            [Enter Joshua and Shep who make their way to the post.]

Phil   As Joshua makes his way to the post from where he will control things, we wait for him and Shep to begin their work.

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Joshua	Away to me. *[Shep runs anticlockwise towards crossing halfway back in church.]*
Phil	That seems a rather confusing instruction, Ewan. 'Away <u>to</u> me'?
Ewan	It's the Outrun. He is telling his dog to run away from him in an anticlockwise direction.
Phil	I didn't know dogs had watches.
Ewan	Of course they have – haven't you heard of the dogwatch?
Phil	Oh very droll. Anyway, Shep seems to understand what he is supposed to do. *[By this time Shep has run round further than half way, going past the centre of the aisle]*
Joshua '	Come bye. *[Shep stops circling anticlockwise and returns to middle of aisle]*
Phil	Is he singing an African song 'Kumbaya my lord' to keep his spirits up?
Ewan	No, he is telling the dog to turn round and circle clockwise.
Joshua	Stand. *[Shep stops centre aisle]*
Ewan	He wants Shep to slow down and stop. This is a crucial phase as they try to lift the sheep.
Joshua	Get back. Get out. *[Shep retreats backwards to back of church]*
Phil	What is happening?
Ewan	Shep is too close to the sheep. They are looking nervous. Joshua wants him to retreat a little.
Joshua	Lie down. *[Shep stops at the back of the church]*
Ewan	Shep has gone back far enough.
Joshua	Stand.
Phil	I must say, there are some funny looking sheep in amongst the flock.

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Ewan	Oh, they are not all sheep.
Phil	What do you mean?
Ewan	Some of them are goats.
Phil	Goats! Are you sure?
Joshua	Stand.
Ewan	Oh yes. There's an easy way to tell.
Phil	What's that?
Ewan	The sheep have tails pointing down, but the goats have tails pointing up.
Phil	Oh yes. I see now.
Joshua	Walk up. *[Shep moves slowly up the aisle]*
Phil	Shep is starting to move towards the sheep – and goats.
Ewan	Yes, they have begun the fetch and drive.
Joshua	Take time. *[Shep stops at centre aisle cross point]*
Phil	They are going very carefully.
Ewan	Yes, you don't want to lose one before the shed.
Phil	What shed? I can't see a shed.
Ewan	The shedding ring, that's where the flock will be divided.
Phil	What, into sheep and goats?
Ewan	Exactly.
Joshua	In here. *[Shep moves up the aisle to front]*
Ewan	That's the command to separate the flock – to shed the goats.

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Phil	He seems to have managed it perfectly: sheep on the left and goats on the right. *[Goat gets out of seat and starts to move across aisle]*
Ewan	Maybe not quite perfectly – there's one runaway.
Joshua	Look back. *[Shep turns, sees runaway and goes after him, overtaking him]*
Ewan	Joshua has seen the problem and has told Shep to go back and sort it out.
Phil	Well here's a challenge - to bring that goat back into line without losing the separation.
Ewan	This is where teamwork between shepherd and dog is so vital. They must pen only the sheep. *[Joshua moves down the aisle dragging the rope behind him penning off the left hand of the church.]*
Joshua	There. *[Shep stops beyond the goat ready to herd him back]*
Phil	Shep seems to have caught the runaway goat and prevented him from joining the sheep.
Ewan	Yes, now he has to drive him back to the other goats.
Joshua	Walk on. *[Shep drives goat back to his seat]*
Phil	Shep has got his goat.
Ewan	he certainly has. What a clever dog he is.
Joshua	That'll do. *[Job done, Shep returns to his master's side]*
Phil	Well it's job done for Joshua and Shep. How many points would you give them Ewan?
Ewan	Oh I think it's the maximum 100. They were faultless in outrun, lift, fetch, drive, shed and pen.
Phil	What even with the runaway goat?
Ewan	Oh, that's exactly what you expect. When they realise what's happening the goats don't want to be separated from the sheep.

[Type text]

Phil   Well there we have it, ladies and gentlemen. With the help of his dog, our Shepherd has penned all his sheep so they are safe and sound. The goats on the other hand have been separated and excluded.

THE END