Office Hours With the Shepherd

Office Hours With the Shepherd — Pastor Appreciation Skit for Church

WHAT

A mockumentary-style tribute. A camera crew follows Pastor Mike for one Tuesday — except he is offstage the entire skit. We only see his desk, his calendar, and the people who walk into his office. Each scene is short and ends with the same offstage line. The reveal at the end is not a punchline. It is a tally. By five p.m. on a single Tuesday, he has prayed over seventeen people, written half a sermon, and missed dinner with his kids again.

THEME

The hidden faithfulness of a pastor is the loudest sermon his people will never hear preached.

WHO

CAMERA CREW (V.O.) — An unseen documentary voice that frames each segment, gentle and curious

PASTOR MIKE — Heard offstage only; warm, tired, kind, never harried

SHIRLEY — Church secretary in her sixties; lovingly ferocious about protecting his calendar

MRS. ELENA TORRES — A widow in her seventies; came in without an appointment, hands shaking

ANTHONY — A man in his thirties asking quietly about being baptized as an adult

REBECCA — A mother of a teenage son she fears she is losing

DEREK — A volunteer mid-argument with the worship leader, ready to quit

KIDS' VOICE (V.O.) — Pastor Mike's young son on speaker phone, cheerful and oblivious

HOW (STYLE / TONE)

The set is one desk, one chair, one calendar on the wall, one phone, and a soft pendant lamp. The pastor is never seen. His voice comes from offstage right, always faintly. Each scene is a single visit. Between scenes, Shirley updates a tally board hanging stage left — an old-fashioned scoreboard with hand-flipped numbers tracking PRAYERS, CALLS, MEETINGS, and FAMILY DINNERS MISSED.

PROPS

- A single wooden desk, a worn office chair, a soft lamp
- A wall calendar marked TUESDAY in red
- An old-fashioned hand-flipped tally board
- A landline phone with a long cord
- A widow's purse with a folded letter

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- A baptism request form Shirley hands across the desk
- A teenage boy's school photo Rebecca lays down on the desk
- A coffee cup that goes cold over the course of the day

TIME

10 minutes

Scene 1 — The Camera Crew Arrives

(Lights up on Shirley at her desk. She looks at the audience)

CAMERA CREW (V.O.)

Tuesday morning. Eight forty-five a.m. The pastor's office. We were told to follow him for a day.

SHIRLEY (matter-of-fact)

You can follow him. You just won't see him much. He's already on his second prayer call. He hasn't taken his coat off.

CAMERA CREW (V.O.)

Could we go in?

SHIRLEY (firmly kind)

No. He's holding somebody up. You'll wait.

(She flips the PRAYERS board from 1 to 2)

Scene 2 — Mrs. Torres

(Mrs. Torres enters slowly, holding her purse with both hands. Sits across from the desk. Pastor's chair is empty)

SHIRLEY (gently)

Elena. You don't have an appointment, sweetheart.

MRS. TORRES (small)

I know. I... I just need a minute.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage, soft)

Send her in, Shirley. The sermon can wait.

(Shirley nods. Mrs. Torres lowers her head. A long quiet beat)

MRS. TORRES (whispering toward the desk)

Today is the anniversary, Pastor. Five years. I just don't know how to be a wife who isn't a wife anymore.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage, gentle)

Sit a minute, Elena. I'll pray about it. I'll pray for you.

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(Shirley flips PRAYERS from 2 to 3)

Scene 3 — Anthony Asks About Baptism

(Anthony enters in work boots, hat in his hands. Stays standing)

ANTHONY

I'm not here for an appointment either. I just... I need to ask something.

SHIRLEY

Ask.

ANTHONY

I'm thirty-four. I was never baptized. My wife was. My kids were. I was always going to do it later. And now my dad is sick. And I think later might already be here.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage)

Anthony? It's not too late. It's never too late.

ANTHONY (eyes wet)

I just feel stupid. Asking. At my age.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage)

I'll fill out the form with you tonight. I'll pray about it. I'll pray for you.

(Shirley flips PRAYERS from 3 to 4)

Scene 4 — The Phone Rings

(Phone rings. Shirley picks up. Listens. Mouths something to the empty chair)

SHIRLEY (covering the receiver)

Pastor — Lyle from the hospital. Janelle just went into surgery. They want you on the line.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage)

Patch him through. Give me five minutes after.

(Shirley nods. The phone clicks. Long pause)

PASTOR MIKE (offstage, faint, mid-prayer)

Father, you know Janelle. You knew her before her name was. Steady the surgeon's hand. Steady her family's heart.

(Shirley quietly flips PRAYERS from 4 to 5. And then to 6)

Scene 5 — Rebecca's Boy

(Rebecca enters at a fast clip. Sits down hard. Slaps a school photo on the desk)

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REBECCA

I am losing him. I am losing my son. I don't know what to do.

SHIRLEY (softly)

Honey.

REBECCA

He won't talk to me. He won't go to school. He won't pick up his phone. I caught him last night sneaking out a window I didn't know opened.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage)

Rebecca. Leave the photo. I'll call him tonight. He won't pick up. I'll keep calling. I'll pray about it. I'll pray for you.

REBECCA (quiet)

He hates church.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage)

He doesn't have to come to church. He has to know somebody is calling. That somebody is me.

(Shirley flips PRAYERS from 6 to 7. And again to 8)

Scene 6 — The Halftime Tally

(Lights cool slightly. The camera crew steps in, addressing the audience)

CAMERA CREW (V.O.)

It's noon. We have not yet seen Pastor Mike. We have heard him. We have seen seven people walk in. Seven people walk out. And the tally board reads — eight prayers.

SHIRLEY (without looking up)

Make it nine. He's praying for the lady who just left, in his head, right now. I can tell. I've watched him do it for thirty years.

(She flips the board to 9)

Scene 7 — Derek Is Quitting

(Derek enters fast, jaw tight)

DEREK

I'm done. I'm done with the worship team. Marcus changed the set list again without telling me. I'm out.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage, even)

Sit down, Derek.

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DEREK
I don't want to sit. I want to quit.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage)
I know. Sit down anyway.

(Derek sits. A long quiet)

PASTOR MIKE (offstage)
Marcus is wrong, Derek. He shouldn't have changed the set without telling you. I'll talk to him this week.

DEREK (defensive)
You're going to defend him.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage)
I'm going to defend the team. Which includes you. Don't quit before I get the chance to fight for you.

DEREK (chastened)
I... okay.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage)
I'll pray about it. I'll pray for you.

(Shirley flips PRAYERS from 9 to 10)

Scene 8 — The Sermon Stalls

(The camera crew lingers on the empty chair. The half-written sermon page sits on the desk)

CAMERA CREW (V.O.)
Two p.m. We notice the sermon is half-written. The pen is uncapped. The coffee is cold. Pastor Mike has not been alone in his office for more than four minutes at a stretch.

SHIRLEY (quiet)
He'll write it tonight. Probably tomorrow. Probably between two-thirty and four a.m. He always does.

Scene 9 — The Speaker Phone Call

(The phone rings again. Shirley picks up. Her face changes — softens)

SHIRLEY (gently)
Pastor — it's your boy. Says it's important.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage, softer)

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Patch him through. Always patch him through.

(Phone clicks. The kid's voice fills the room)

KIDS' VOICE (V.O.)
Daddy? Are you coming home for dinner tonight? Mom said maybe.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage, long pause)
Buddy. I am going to try.

KIDS' VOICE (V.O.)
You said try last week.

PASTOR MIKE (offstage, broken-soft)
I know. I know I did. Tonight I am going to do better than try.

KIDS' VOICE (V.O.)
Okay. Bye, Daddy.

(The phone clicks. Long silence. Shirley flips the FAMILY DINNERS MISSED board from 6 to 7)

Scene 10 — Five P.M.

(Lights warm and amber. The camera crew steps in with a printout)

CAMERA CREW (V.O.)
Five p.m. The end of one Tuesday. Here is the tally.

SHIRLEY (reading the board)
Seventeen prayers. Twelve walk-ins. Three hospital calls. Half a sermon. Six members spoken for. Two crises averted. One boy on the phone.

SHIRLEY (softer)
And one family dinner he is going to make. If I have to drive him home myself.

Scene 11 — Final Moment

(The lights focus on the empty chair. The desk lamp clicks off offstage. We hear the chair scrape back and footsteps moving away)

PASTOR MIKE (offstage, faint, almost to himself)
Lord — keep them. Every one. The widow. The boy. The sober man. The angry one. Keep them. Bless them. I'll pray about it. I'll pray for you.

SHIRLEY (to the camera)
He prays for them as he leaves. Every Tuesday. Every shepherd is supposed to count his sheep at the end of the day. I have watched him count three hundred of them, by name, for fifteen years.

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SHIRLEY

And no one ever sees him do it.

NARRATOR: First Thessalonians five, verse twelve. 'Esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.' We hope this Tuesday told you a little of what the work looks like. The shepherd you have was praying for you while you were eating breakfast this morning. He probably is again right now.

(Lights down on the desk. The tally board glows for one more beat. Out)

END

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