**Wilderness removalists**

First performed at Shaftesbury Road Ecclesia, 2017

Characters

* Moses (Bible times clothes)
* Joshua (Bible times clothes)
* Assistant (Bible times clothes and a clipboard)
* The removalists (modern clothes – hard hats / caps, high viz vests, clipboards): Asaf, Shani, team members and a foolish team member

**Scene: Moses’ administration tent, Joshua and Moses are quietly talking.**

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| Assistant | Excuse me, Joshua, could I talk to you for a minute? (Joshua looks up)  I brought my cousins to see you. They have a brilliant new business proposition for you. |
| Joshua | (looks a bit puzzled … looks at Moses)  A business proposition? Here in the Wilderness? |
| Moses | You better go and see what it’s all about. (shrugs) |
| Assistant | My cousins are expanding their business, they have some great equipment – new camels, boxes, wagons and very smart uniforms … you won’t regret it. |
| Joshua | (to the audience) I think I already do … |
| Assistant | Here is my cousin Asaf, his cousin Shani, and the rest of the team.  (the team all wave) |
| Asaf | Hello, you must be Joshua. Thank you for giving us the chance to talk to you … we have a GREAT DEAL that is going to save you TIME and MONEY. |
| Joshua | Very well, what is your business proposition? |
| Shani | We’ve noticed that every time we move camp, the Tabernacle has to be dismantled, packed up and moved and then set up again in a new place when we make camp.  This is a big job and you have a small team working on it … they don’t seem to be very efficient at all. |
| Joshua | Oh, you mean the Levites? |
| Asaf | Yes, they do everything by hand.  We are a much more modern organisation, we can do a much faster job for you. Our company… |
| Team | Wilderness removalists |
| Asaf | Has the fastest camels in the wilderness, we have strong oxen and carts with wheels designed by the best chariot racing company …. |
| Joshua | Let me stop you there … do I understand you correctly … you are offering to move the Sanctuary, the ark of the Covenant, the bronze laver, the alter and all the other things in the Tabernacle with your equipment? |
| Shani | That’s right …. Our modern equipment and the fastest most careful packers in the whole Middle East. |
| Team | (All show muscles / strike a pose.) |
| Joshua | Well there’s a bit of a problem with that …  You see the Tabernacle isn’t just an ordinary tent … it’s a special place where God dwells amongst us … you know He designed the whole thing himself … the plans, the materials and even chose who would work in the Tabernacle… |
| Team | (surprised) He chose the Levites? |
| Joshua | Yes the Levites … and even amongst the Levites they all have different jobs on moving day. |
| Team | Really? |
| Joshua | Well Aaron is the high priest and his sons help him to take down the veil and cover the Ark before anything else can be done. |
| Team | Always pack valuables first … |
| Joshua | And Kohath and his sons have the responsibility of carefully packing and moving the furniture. The instructions are very precise.  And it’s Gershon and his descendants who pack up the curtains, the boards, and the big things and put them on wagons and prepare for moving. |
| Team | The Gershonites |
| Joshua | Merari and his descendants take care of the cords and the pins that are put into the ground to hold the walls of the tabernacle up. |
| Team | (Nodding) The walls … very important.  Cords and pins … easy to lose those in a big move. |
| Asaf | So it’s basically a family business then … Levi and sons? |
| Joshua | I guess you could call it that … I’m afraid ordinary Israelites are not allowed to have anything to do with the moving of the tabernacle under the penalty of death. |
| Team | DEATH???? |
| Joshua | That’s right … only the Levites are consecrated for this holy purpose. |
| Asaf | I see … well then perhaps you will be interested in some ideas we have about arranging the camp more efficiently … we’ve noticed that everyone always pitches their tents in the same places around the Tabernacle and we have some new innovative ideas ….. |
| Joshua | (Walks away shaking his head) |