

Wanted: Prophet to the Nations By David Radcliff

The call of Jeremiah set in the context of a job interview where the less-qualified applicant is the best-qualified candidate. For two readers. Performance note: near end, feel free to change name from "Manchester College" to a high school or college or other institution located near the area where the skit is being presented.

[Younger person sitting in waiting room outside office of interviewer, application in hand.]

[Calls from inside] Come on in, kid.

Hello, ma'am (sir). I'm here about the job you had advertised.

And which one would that be?—you gotta understand that we've got things going on all over the earth—after all, when you've got the whole world in your hands, that's a lot of responsibility, know what I mean? We have positions opening up in lots of different fields—let's see: here's one in "advanced human relations"; another one in "spiritual transformation"; a "social justice" slot; "ministry among the poor"; "protests and vigils"; here's an interesting one—"speaking truth to power." We don't get a lot of applicants for that one—on-the-job risks, you understand. Last guy who took that one ended up in a lion's den—good thing we had him sign the liability waiver. So, which one are you here about?

I believe that's the one—the last one.

Oh, yeah? Hmmm. What possessed you to want to apply for that one?

I didn't—

Sure looks like that's you sitting there to me.

I mean, it wasn't my idea.

Another pushy mom?

Nope.

Prof at school?

No.

Spiritual Advisor?

Never had one.

Martyr complex?

Can't spell it.

So tell me then, just whose idea was it that you apply for the position of “God’s prophet to the nations,” a job whose modest goal is only to bring about justice and peace in our time by openly challenging the rich and powerful to account for their deeds?

Let’s just say I got a call.

Is that right...? And what are your qualifications?

Don’t know that I have any.

This could be interesting. [aside to audience: Strangely enough, this is one assignment where the Lord is looking for what we might call the “less qualified” candidate. Passionate rather than professional, courage over experience, a deep faith rather than technical expertise. Let’s see how this youngster fits the bill...]

[takes application from applicant] Hmmm. Age: young. Experience: none. Previous work: nada. So far, so good; nothing impressive here. Degree: Manchester College. Perfect! Exceptionally underqualified!

You mean I get the job?

Yours for the taking. Soon you’ll be speaking before rulers and rich folks, telling them about God’s ways. Oh, I didn’t get your name.

Jeremiah. And I’ve just got one question for you: what if the rulers and all those powerful people don’t like what I have to say to them? What if they hound me, harass me, tap my phone, lock me up, cast aspersions on my good name...and generally make things miserable for me?

Relax! That will just mean you’re doing something right. And you’ll certainly be rewarded for your troubles...

You mean I get paid for doing this?!

Don’t get your hopes up—the Big Boss is into “eternal rewards”, you know, stars in your crown and things like that—which by the way would look very good on you...

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New Community Project
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