

JOB SPEC'**By Rod**

Based on Matthew 10 vv 1 – 42 where Jesus sends out the 12 but warns them they will face danger and opposition.

CAST

Simon *Based on Simon Peter. Solid, rustic, down to earth.*
Job Centre Worker *Cheery, cracks bad jokes which Simon does not find amusing.*

Simon Morning

Job Centre Worker Good morning, sir. How can I help you?

Simon I'm looking for a job.

JCW Well, you've come to the right place; after all this is the Job Centre.

Simon Yeah, quite. What have you got then?

JCW *[Starting to write things down]* First of all I need to find out a little about you Mr.....?

Simon Simon.

JCW OK Mr Simon, what sort of work have you been doing?

Simon I'm a fisherman.

JCW Oh right. Net profit not what it was then?

Simon No, business is fine. I'm just looking for a change.

JCW You want to try a new tack?

Simon I fancy a bit of travel. I know the Sea of Galilee like the back of my hand, but I want to spread my wings, see new places, see the world.

JCW *.[Producing a file which he opens]* How about long distance camel driver? You'd spend a lot of time on the road. Meet new people.

Simon No, I don't really like camels.

JCW Give you the hump do they? *[Simon glares. JCW looks embarrassed and looks frantically in his file]* Ah, I've got something here that's just come in. It could be right up your street – or open road.

Simon Oh really, what's that?

JCW There's a fellow here looking for Apostles.

Simon Come again.

JCW Apostles.

Simon What's that when it's at home.

JCW Well, that's just it – apostles are not often *at home*. The word means 'one who is sent out'. The whole point is that they go away from home.

Simon What does an apostle do when he's away from home?

JCW He tells everyone about his employer. Basically it's an advertising job. You would become an adman.

Simon Oh right, that sounds quite interesting. I've got a loud voice. I could put that to good use. *[Breaks into song]* "Go compare, go compare"

JCW Absolutely. You have got a loud voice. *[Aside]* Although obviously not a musical one.

Simon Since there is so much time spent away from home in this job, what are the perks? The travel expenses? Do I get a company camel?

JCW I thought you didn't like camels.

Simon I could make an exception if it was free.

JCW *[Checking file]* Let's have a look.... No it would appear not.

Simon A donkey?

JCW No.

Simon A walking-stick?

JCW *[Looking in file]* Alas, no – it even says that you shouldn't wear any sandals.

Simon What! How about a company uniform. If I'm going to represent my employee I need to look the part. Company kit with logo and so on.

JCW No, sorry. Just what you are wearing – and no extra tunic or bag. But it does say that you can eat in the homes of people you meet..

Simon That's something. Free food. I love my grub.

JCW As long as they are friendly.

Simon You mean some might not be?

JCW Quite a lot actually. They might not like your message.

Simon I suppose some adverts can be a bit irritating. *[Sings again]* "Go compare, go compare".

JCW They might arrest you and take you to court.

Simon What!?

JCW But don't worry. Your employer says he will give you the words to say to the judge.

Simon Oh, he's well connected then?

JCW But it might not keep you out of trouble – as you are likely to be flogged and beaten.

Simon Flogged for doing a bit of advertising? That's outrageous. My family would have something to say about that.

- JCW Maybe they would, but don't expect them to be on your side. They are more than likely to disown you.
- Simon Never. Family always comes first.
- JCW Not in this job apparently. In fact it says that all men may hate you because of your message.
- Simon What about women/
- JCW Probably them too.
- Simon I'm not sure I am very keen on this. Who is this employer anyway?
- JCW Some say he is the devil.
- Simon No wonder everyone gets angry at his message. I'm certainly not working for him. *[Turns as if to leave]*
- JCW *[Hurriedly]* But actually he's not the devil – he's the exact opposite.
- Simon Someone who wants to work to bring peace on earth. I quite fancy that; being a peacemaker. *[Dreamily, imagining]* I might even win the Nobel prize.
- JCW I fear that's unlikely.
- Simon Not been invented you mean?
- JCW There is that, but also this employer says his aim is not to bring peace but a sword.
- Simon Oh, you mean it's that Wilkinson fellow. I use his blades when I shave.
- JCW No, it's not him and by sword he means division and battles: man against father, daughter against mother, families at war.
- Simon I don't want to be involved in that sort of thing. Count me out. I'm going back to my boats. *[Gets up and starts to walk out]*

JCW *[Stands up]* But he does say that the rewards for those who sign up for his cause are huge.

Simon *[Stops and turns]* A good pension scheme you mean? Is it better than the one for civil servants?

JCW Far better. In fact it is out of this world!

THE END