

NO PICNIC

By Rod, Ian, Jeff and Alan

This sketch explores the idea of a pluralist society – its pros and cons, and the challenge of how Christians can stand up for their faith. Reference is made to Micah 6 v 8.

CAST

Adam *Organised type.*
Ben *Happy, ebullient.*
Colin *Unexcitable. Down to earth.*

[There are two benches on stage. Enter Adam walking strongly. He has a back-pack]

Adam Come on you two, nearly there. *[Enter Ben followed by Colin. Both are tired. Especially Colin]*

Ben Phew, that is quite a hill.

Colin *[Puffing]* Yeah, I wish in was in better condition.

Adam *[pointing]* You've got to admit the climb was worth it though; look at the view.

Ben *[Looking round]* Wow, fantastic.

Colin I'm sorry, I need to sit down. I am exhausted. *[Slumps on one bench]*

Adam I'll tell you what you need, Colin – some sustenance. I've got just the thing; I've brought some sandwiches. *[Sits down on bench opposite Colin]*

Ben Oh brilliant, Adam, you're a genius. *[Sitting down next to Adam]* What sort have you got?

Colin I hope you've got cheese and pickle. That would go down a treat.

Ben Oh no, egg and mayo for me anytime.

Adam *[Drawing from his bag]* Well – I've got ham.. ham... ham ..or ham.

Ben I'll have the ham please.

Adam *[Passing a sandwich to Ben]* Good choice. *[Gets up to give sandwich to Colin as well.]*

Colin No offence, A..... , and I am grateful for this bit of reviving energy input, but life is a bit dull when you take away the element of choice.

Ben Yeah, variety is the spice of life.

Adam *[Sitting back down and looking in bag]* OK, well you have got choice when it comes to drinks. I have a high juice multi-pack. *[Draws from bag]*

Colin Drinks as well. You're a star A....

Ben What's the choice?

Adam *[Looking at multi-pack]* There's orange, grapefruit, strawberry, lemon, peach or banana.

Colin Plenty of choice this time.

Adam Yes, it is not dull at all. What would you like B.....?

Ben Er er.. I don't know. I can't decide. You chose for me A.....

Adam OK, here you are. *[Passes to Ben]*

Ben Banana! But I don't like banana.

Adam And here's one for you Colin. *[Throws to Colin]*

Colin No choice eh? You're a dictator, that's what you are Adam. You're just like my boss you are; he gives orders and expects everyone to obey. Causes no end of upset I can tell you.

Adam Maybe, but you have to admit having a dictator speeds up the decision-making process.

Ben But what happens if you disagree with the decision that is made on your behalf?

Adam Tough.

Ben I am glad we live in a democracy. At least we get to choose who governs us: Tories, Labour, Libdem, UKIP ...

Adam Greens. Don't forget your greens.

Ben *[To Adam]* They're part of my five a day!

Colin Neah, the political parties are all the same. Whichever one we vote for, we end up with the same sort of government.

Adam Bit like religion really.

Ben How do you mean?

Adam Well, in this country there are lots of religions: Christians, Moslems, Jews..

Ben Jehovah's Witnesses – we had a couple round the other day, knocking on our door.

Colin Mormons, Buddhists, Sikhs..

Ben Jedi Knights.

Colin But the difference is that we know which one is the true religion; Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life.

Adam You can't say that Colin You'll upset people. In our 'pluralist' society the idea is that all religions are equally valued.

Colin You mean you are free to believe whatever you want – as long as you don't impose it on others.

Ben Like those Jehovah's Witnesses; I gave them short shrift I can tell you.

Colin Which does make it difficult to obey Jesus' command to go and make disciples of all nations. It's no picnic.

Adam I guess we need to think about **the way** we go about it.

Ben *[Standing up]* Oh yeah, like we were told in church in the sermon on Sunday. He quoted a verse from Micah. You remember....

Adam What does the Lord require of you?

Ben That's it. What does the Lord require of you? To act justly ...

A *[Stands alongside Adam]*..and to love mercy..

C *[Also stands to complete the line of three]*.. and to walk humbly before your God.

THE END