

MY RECENT FILM ROLE

I shared with you last June how I had an acting role in a film my daughter and a few of her classmates submitted to the Crosscuts Video competition at BCI. Ever since my acting debut I have been looking to add to my resume. I have been going through a dry spell as some actors do, but recently my services and skills were requested.

One of the assignments my daughter had this past week for one of her courses was to come up with jokes and then film an episode of "Weekend Update" which appears on every episode of Saturday Night Live. When my daughter first told me about this, I thought I would be the perfect cohost. I quickly found out that she could be the only person telling jokes at the news anchor desk.

With this role not being available, I then offered to write some jokes for her. I think I am a funny guy, but my wife often rolls her eyes at some of my humor. I wrote up a couple of pages of jokes that included some about the Toronto Maple Leafs, a few surrounding the Olympics, and even a couple with respect to politics here in Canada and the United States. I thought my jokes were quite funny and submitted them to my daughter. Somehow none of my jokes made the final cut.

On Saturday night, right around the time that Saturday Night Live was on television, my daughter decided it was time to film. Before filming I offered my skills at set design. I pushed a few heavy pieces of furniture aside to make room for the desk she would sit at while she filmed. Then we needed to make a sign showing it was "Weekend Update."

Earlier that night I had offered my time and my money to run over to the Dollar Store and buy bristol board and markers for the sign. I was not allowed to make the letters for the sign, but I was asked to use my skills to erase some of the pencil marks showing on the letters. As the camera was getting set up, I then put my acting skills to use by sitting behind the news anchor desk so my daughter and wife could see how everything looked through the camera lens. When it came time for the actual filming, I was assigned the role of taking our dog Daisy upstairs and keeping her occupied by feeding her biscuits so she would not bark during the recording.

When everything was done, I was told by my daughter that she would record my voice the next day introducing the "Weekend Update" segment on her video. I practiced a few times on Sunday and, of course, my voice

was in perfect tone after preaching that day. I got home to discover she was able to edit in the actual voice used for the "Weekend Updates." I did not have the same on-screen time that I did a year ago, but the roles I played behind the scenes were just as important to make my daughter's video turn out to be the quality it was.

My experience over the weekend reminded me how, just as I played a supporting role in the vision my daughter had, we play roles in the story God is writing. With Lent already upon us and Easter fast approaching we have two great examples of this in the stories surrounding that first Easter.

The first example we see of this occurred on Palm Sunday. Before Jesus made His entry into Jerusalem, He asked two of His disciples to go into the village ahead and untie the young donkey they would see there and bring it to Him. When the owners of the colt saw the disciples doing this and inquired as to why, they were quite willing to give the donkey for Jesus' use when informed. By doing so, the owners of this colt allowed Jesus to fulfill the prophecy revealing His true identity as the Messiah by riding in as He did. This sacrifice of giving seemed like such a minor part in the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem that Sunday but it proved to be an important role in the story being told.

The same can be said about a man named Simon from Cyrene. He was in Jerusalem for the Passover and happened to be on the route where Jesus was being forced to carry His cross to the site of the crucifixion. When Jesus collapsed under the weight of the cross, the Romans forced Simon to carry the cross the rest of the way. Little did Simon realize at that time the role he was asked to play in the story of Good Friday.

God has a place and role for all of us in the story that He is writing.

Let's make sure we recognize this and do not make excuses when God asks us to do things for Him in the story He is writing. The roles that God is asking us to do may seem minor at first, but as the owner of the colt and Simon of Cyrene discovered, our participation can have huge impacts for the Kingdom of God.

I am anxious to hear what the professor has to say about my daughter's video. My name was not mentioned in the credits to this video unlike the first time, but I was glad to play a role in the story she wanted to tell.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean