

Homiletic presentation based on Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16  
"What's My Line"

During hymn prior to scripture lesson (only 2 verses), all participants in "What's My Line" need to carry 4 chairs & 2 tables to chancel area & set up.

Matthew Ditchen reads Epistle lesson:

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. 7 But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

11 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. 14 We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. 15 But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Host/Moderator John Charles Weakly [JCW]: Welcome to this week's edition of What's My Line, where our celebrity contestants try to guess the occupation and identity of our guest. We will begin tonight with a mystery guest, so our contestants will wear blindfolds. They will each ask our mystery guest a single question until ten negative answers are given or until they guess the identity of the mystery guest.

I will have no role, except to discuss with the guest any of their answers that may be too misleading.

Before they cover their eyes, let me introduce our contestants for this week's show:

[each contestant waves as they are introduced. After their introduction they put on their blindfold.]

Surfer Bennett [SB]

Arlene Assisi [AA]

Dorothy Halfgallon [DH]

and our guest contestant, Whetty Bite [WB]

And now -- all blindfolds in place -- I'll invite our mystery guest to "enter and sign in, please."

### **Enter Mystery Guest who signs simply, "X"**

JCW: Welcome, Mr. X. we will begin our questioning with Mr. Surfer Bennett.

SB: Mr, X, are you presently appearing in a recently released movie or Broadway production?

### **Mr. X: Yes**

JCW: uh, Mr. X, let us discuss that answer, please.

**[Mr. X holds up sign that says, "All humans are my brothers & sisters. I am wherever they are, whatever they are doing. God loves & works through all people."]**

JCW: OK, for the sake of clarity & not being too misleading, I'm going to rule that the answer to that question is "No," That's 1 down & 9 to go. Ms Arlene Assisi, your turn.

AA: Mr. X, is your profession one of a literary nature.

### **Mr. X: Yes**

JCH: Oh my! Let me interrupt again.

**[Mr. X holds up sign that says, "All humans are my brothers & sisters. I am wherever they are, whatever they are doing. God loves & works through all people."]**

JCW: OK, for the sake of clarity & not being too misleading, I'm going to rule that the answer to that question is "No," That's 2 down & 8 to go. Ms Dorothy Halfgallon, your turn.

DH: Mr. X, are you a sports figure?

**Mr. X: Yes**

JCH: Oh my, my, my! Excuse, me please.

**[Mr. X holds up sign that says, "All humans are my brothers & sisters. I am wherever they are, whatever they are doing. God loves & works through all people."]**

JCW: OK, for the sake of clarity & not being too misleading, I'm going to rule that the answer to that question is "No," That's 3 down & 7 to go. Ms Whetty Bite, again I welcome you as a guest contestant. It's your turn.

WB: Mr. X, are you a part of the healing profession, like a doctor or nurse?

**Mr. X: Yes**

JCW: I think ... [Mr. X turns and stares/glares at JCW]

JCW (continues) ... OK, I'm going to let that "Yes" stand. Sorry to keep interrupting. Mr. Bennett Surfer, your turn, we are at 3 down and 7 to go.

SB: Mr. X, your self-image seems to differ from the image held by Mr. Weakley. Do you do windows? [General tittering & laughing from the panel of contestants.]

**Mr. X: but, of course, I do. [holds up same sign]**

JCW: Oh my, our Mr. X obviously thinks he's a comedian as well. That's 4 down and 6 to go. Ms. Assisi, your turn.

AA: well, this certainly is interesting, Mr. X, you think, you are a performer, author, sports figure, doctor or healer, and window cleaner. But Mr. Weakly only agrees with healer. Are you, by profession, someone who likes to deceive or mislead people?

**Mr. X: No! Absolutely not. But there are many people who have tried to deceive or mislead others about me.**

JCW: Ok, that's 5 down & 5 to go. [frustrated & wiping his brow] And I'll remind our mystery guest, Mr. X, to please limit his answers to simple "yes" or "No" responses. Let's move forward. Ms. Halfgallon?

DH: Mr. X. I've got to say: I believe I've never seen a guest get Mr. Weakly so discombobulated. Are you an American or a European?

**Mr. X: yes, but not merely. [and holds up sign again]**

JCW: Confusing answer, but not a "yes" or "no" question, either. Perhaps, Ms. Halfgallon is also a little discombobulated. That's 7 down and 3 to go. Ms. Bite, your turn, and please remember, make your question one with a "yes" or "no" answer.

WB: I'm getting so confused! Mr. X, are you a super hero action figure?

**Mr. X: scratches head, seeming a litt baffled, and then holding up his same sign, studying it again, Himself, and says: Yes.**

[Everyone turns to look at JCH for his, by now, standardized interruption. He looks confused, and says, in a frustrated voice:] Fine! Surfer, your turn.

SB: Mr. X, It feels like we really don't have a good understanding of you. Is it your intent to divide people into different groups, based on their perception of you?

**Mr. X: Absolutely not!**

JCH: I just ...

**Mr. X: Enough Zechariah!** [and Mr. X makes the universal "zip up your mouth" gesture. JCW clearly tries to speak - now and throughout the remainder of time until Mr. X "unzips" him.]

**Mr. X: Your turn Arlene.**

AA: [had been looking over toward JCW & whips her head around, when Mr. X invites her to take her turn.] Uh ... OK ... Mr. X, have you and I met before, personally?

**Mr. X: oh, yes, Arlene. I was there to hear your bornin' cry. And I was with you this morning, in your bedroom, when you awoke.**

[Mr. X holds up a different sign: **"Lo, I am with you always."**]

**Mr. X: Dorothy, still 7 down & 3 to go. Your turn.** [JCW still making very expressive, but unsuccessful, motions of trying to talk, including tapping the live microphone.]

DH: Well, I'm glad Arlene is the one waking up with you, Mr. X. Is there anyone on the panel that you don't personally know?

**Mr. X: No, I know each one of you, personally and intimately. That's 8 down & 2 to go. Whetty, your turn.**

WB: I usually remember the men who are intimate with me.... Jesus Christ!

**Mr. X: That's correct. You may take off your blindfolds.**

[All comply, somewhat confusedly]

**Mr. X** [pulls off his hood and says:] **Well, I know you hadn't pictured me with red hair, gently turning light by the sun ... Oh, that's right; I always lovingly tell the truth ... By the sun and the passing years.**

**What may have confused you is that some folks have been misrepresenting me. I don't walk around with a yardstick, accusing people of not measuring up.**

**More than anything - like that old' curmudgeon Paul told the church in Ephesus - I want ALL my sisters and brothers to be IN UNITY.**

**I, too, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.**

**Get it?**

**Quit fighting about who has the right belief, the right liturgical practice, the right morality code.**

**NONE of you have it ALL right.**

**But I love ALL of you, anyway.**

**It just breaks my heart to see how many of my children are turned off by me and God, because they see the Body of Christ so divided.**

**You can do better.**

**I know you can. I gave my life so you could. Don't squander that, just so you can think you are right.**

**Love. Accept. Be one, even if you don't agree. If I wanted or required agreement, I'd have made the whole world black & white.**

**And Whetty, quit chasing bed partners to make yourself feel worthy. You are as good as they come. I made you that way, beloved sister of mine. You are beautiful & precious to behold.**

**[Mr. X starts to exit, pauses, turns to look at John Charles Weakly, motions "unzipping" of his mouth and snaps his fingers, and walks off.]**

JCW: in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! And now a word from our sponsors ... Let us present our tithes & offerings.

[JCW & contestants, please fold tables, and remove tables & chairs to prayer chapel during offering.]