

Born in 1941, Tim Hansel was the founder of *Summit Expedition*, a ministry based on wilderness experiences. Several years into this, he suffered a debilitating fall resulting in chronic pain for the remainder of his life. His ministry shifted from outdoors to writing; and he inspired thousands, perhaps millions, with his message of perseverance and faith ... and the option to choose joy despite pain or sorrow or disability. He died in 2009, leaving a legacy of several popular books on service and ministry.

In his 1988 book titled *Eating Problems for Breakfast: A Simple, Creative Approach to Solving Problems*, Hansel describes a hypothetical letter written by a management consultant to Jesus. I'd like to read that now.

*To: Jesus, Son of Joseph, Woodcrafter's Carpenter Shop, Nazareth 25922
From: Jordan Management Consultants*

Dear Sir:

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for managerial positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; and we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.

The profiles of all tests are included, and you will want to study each of them carefully.

As part of our service, we make some general comments for your guidance, much as an auditor will include some general statements. This is given as a result of staff consultation, and comes without any additional fee.

It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew had been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind, and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious, and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory.

We wish you every success in your new venture.

Sincerely,

Jordan Management Consultants

In today's Gospel we hear the call of the Apostles.

In reality, Jesus didn't consult with the latest experts in the field of management to choose them. Instead, He "*went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God.*"

St. Paul points out that when we mix worldly ways into our Christian lives ... instead of going to God and relying on the Spirit of God ... we invite trouble into our lives.

The Apostles conquered the world with the message of the Gospel. Twelve defective, average men, without great skills or experience.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for a deeper trust in God's ways ... to spend more time in prayer, and less time worrying about whatever problems we may face.