

# Message in Morse Code

Back when the telegraph was the fastest means of long-distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse code operator.

Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, noisy office. In the background, a telegraph clacked away. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office.

The young man completed his form and sat down with seven other waiting applicants. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in.

Naturally, the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. Why had this man been so bold? They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons. They took more than a little satisfaction in assuming that the young man who went into the office would be reprimanded for his presumption and summarily disqualified for the job.

Within a few minutes, the young man emerged from the inner office escorted by the interviewer, who announced to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has been filled by this young man."

The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and then one spoke up. "Wait a minute; I don't understand. He was the last one to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair."

The employer responded, "All the time you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse code: *If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.*"

"None of you heard it or understood it," the interviewer said. "This young man did. So the job is his."

A man's livelihood depended on his ability to discern the message.

The lesson for us in this story is two-fold:

1. Preparation, for whatever we face, is extremely important – whether it be a job interview or the responsibilities of the work we are called to do – what sets us apart in the competitive environment in which we find ourselves.
2. In the spiritual realm, life after death depends on our ability to discern this message: *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16 ESV).