

28. What Was I Thinking?

(Guy)

1 So, it seemed like a good idea at the time. Something
2 unique. Something different. I mean, everyone paints the
3 walls, right? So why not paint something cool on the ceiling?
4 Well, I'll tell you why not! My neck is killing me! My
5 muscles are so sore and knotted; it'll take some intensive
6 physical therapy to work these kinks out. What was I
7 thinking? Why would anyone want to hold a paintbrush up
8 over their heads for hours at a time? I've tried other ways —
9 lying down on the scaffolding — but I still have to hold my
10 arm up! The paintbrush feels like it weighs a hundred
11 pounds! And I've dripped paint in my eyes so many times
12 that I think I'm crying in color!
13 Why couldn't I have been smart and picked the floor
14 instead? At least people would've seen it. Who is ever even
15 going to notice this thing way up here? And *their* necks will
16 get sore if they look at it too long. No one in their right mind
17 is going to go through all that just to look at a painting. My
18 arm muscles are so strained; the lines are starting to look
19 shaky! People will be talking about this horrible paint job for
20 centuries! But I can't stop now! I can't have half a ceiling
21 painted. My reputation is at stake. I'd never get another
22 paint job again.
23 Maybe I could try that hot new contemporary art stuff
24 I've been hearing about. I'll just throw some paint cans at
25 the ceiling and see what happens ... but, oh ... my
26 masterpiece ... I cannot degrade myself that way. Let me
27 just call a masseuse and I'll get back up on that ladder!

29. Watched Like a Hawk

(Guy)

1 If your dad is a surgeon, nobody expects you to operate
2 by default, right? And if your dad is a policeman, they sure
3 don't hand over a gun and tell you to serve and protect,
4 right? So why is it that just because my dad is a minister,
5 everyone expects me to act like one, too?
6 I'm sick of everyone in the church watching my every
7 move. They can't wait to whisper and gossip about me.
8 They expect me to be the perfect little angel. Well, I didn't
9 sign up for this! I am not the one standing up at the pulpit
10 preaching to everyone. I don't see anyone else's kid being
11 scrutinized the way I am. Because I could sure tell some
12 stories about the kids in youth group, let me tell you! Their
13 parents are church-goers — how come they get to act that
14 way and I can't even slip and say a bad word without it
15 being printed in the bulletin!
16 And now, I *finally* have a girl brave enough to date me
17 — that's right! *Brave enough!* It's like having the paparazzi
18 watching your every move. Who wants to put up with that?
19 But she does, and she's great about it. And I can't even
20 hold her hand or put my arm around her because I have to
21 be held to a higher standard! Well, I don't want to be held
22 to a higher standard. I want the normal teenage boy
23 standard where I get to cuddle with my girlfriend on the bus
24 and *not* have everyone know everything about my life!
25 Is that so much to ask? Is it OK for me to pray that my
26 dad gets kicked out of church so that I can have a normal
27 life? Why couldn't he have been something cool, like an NFL
28 football player or lead guitarist in a band? Nobody would
29 care about what I did then, that's for sure!