

~~A thousand and one~~ Parabolic Tales

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"To you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of GOD, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' " - Luke 8 v 10

Synopsis:

The idea is that a story teller begins and then each scene comes to life on the stage and takes over, although the story teller may interject (or voice over) at different places

Five scenes, The Camel through the eye of the needle scene is to be a "funny" interlude in the middle and will need three comic personalities to pull it off. They will also need to be able to sing enough to sing the lines to "Right Said Fred"

Songs

Scene One

"Old Man Reuben" (to the tune of Old MacDonald)

Scene Two

"These Boots are made for Walking"

Scene Three

"Right Said Obed" – (to the tune of "Right Said Fred")

Scene Four

"The Prodigal" Steve Grace on *Children Of the Western World* (1988)

Scene Five

"Don't build your house on the sandy land"

Tale One - The Sower

References – Luke 8 v 5

Song – “Old man Reuben” (to the tune of *Old McDonald*)

Characters – The Storyteller, 3 Children, The Farmer, the Passer by, the birds

Child One Tell us a story PPPPLLLLLLEEEAAAASSSSEEEE

Storyteller What sort of story would you like to hear?

Child Two One about a farmer

Child Three Like Old McDonald

Child One No a Bible story

Child Two *(Directed at the Story teller questioningly)* “is there a Bible story about a farmer”

Storyteller Um let me see...
Ah here it is a short story, called a parable.
We can find it in Luke chapter 8 verse 5
And it goes something like this...
“A Farmer went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed...

Farmer *Enters the stage*
Whistling and throwing out the seed.

Passer by Hello?
What are you up to today

Farmer Sowing my crop, it is time to sow

Passer by You getting your seed everywhere, look you have even got some on the road

Farmer Every time some falls on the wayside and gets trampled by the passers by

Birds *Birds enter call to each other while they fly around in a circle and swoop down to the road and start eating the grain*

Passer by Don't you want to chase that bird way

Farmer The birds always have their share

Birds *Birds call to each other and fly away*

Farmer *Continues to sow throwing some into a rocky area*

Passer by There is not enough soil in that rocky area is there?

Farmer No it will spring up but when there is no moisture left the plants will wither

Passer by And those thorns won't they choke the crop

Farmer Some of it

Passer by Then why do you sow it there?

Farmer I don't, but since I don't want to miss any of the good ground some falls in those places as I sow. For each grain that falls in the good ground I get a hundred fold of crop, so that which falls on the bad ground is not wasted if it means I don't miss any of the good ground.

Storyteller When Jesus finished telling the story he said "He who has ears to hear, let him hear"

Child One What does that mean?

Story teller Well it means that the story is not just a story but an illustration, which helps us to understand the word of God

Child two Illustration, that's like a picture or a drawing isn't it?

Story teller Yes but a word picture not one with paper and colour

Child three So Jesus was telling us a story to tell us something else

Story teller That's right

Child Three So what was he saying?

Storyteller Jesus was saying that the grain was like the Word of God, although many hear the Word, not everyone takes it into their heart, and loves God.

All
(scene change) Sing: "Old man Reuben had a farm E I E I O
And on that farm he sowed some grain E I E I O
And he sowed here
and he sowed there
here he sowed, there he sowed
everywhere he sowed
Old man Reuben had a farm E I E I O"

Tale Two - The Good Samaritan

References – Luke 10 v 30-36

Song – PTL 295 - Would you walk by on the other side?

Characters, The Storyteller, The children, The Traveler, The Samaritan, The Levite, The Priest, 2 Thieves

Child one	Tell us another one of those para...parables
Child two	Yes another please
Child three	One about a kind person
Child one	No, one about a robber
Storyteller	How about one about both a robber and a kind person?
All Children	Yes
Story teller	Here it is Luke chapter 10 v 30 "A certain man when down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves,
Traveler	<i>Enters the stage carrying a bag singing</i> "These boots are made for walking, and that's just what they'll do, all the way to Jericho, then back to Jerusalem too."
Thieves	<i>Standing enter the opposite direction slightly concealed by rocks or a tree and when they see him they huddle whispering</i>
Thief 1	<i>Whispering.</i> You go at him from the behind I will go from the side.
Thief 2	<i>Whispers.</i> OK
Thief 1	<i>The Thieves take the traveler by surprise</i> Hand it over
Thief 2	All of it <i>pushes the traveler knocking him over</i>
Thief 1	Get his clothes I have his bag <i>Grabs his bag and runs off stage</i>
Thief 2	<i>Grabs the clothes and follows thief 1 off stage</i>
Traveler	<i>Curled in a ball and groans – then rolls into the "ditch"</i>
Storyteller	"Now a certain priest came down that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side."

Priest *With exaggerated movements as the story teller tells it, Enters the stage sees the man lying there and crosses to the other side of the road and goes around him and exits the stage.*

Storyteller "Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at that place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side."

Levite *With exaggerated movements as the story teller tells it, Enters the stage sees the man lying there goes closer and looks then crosses to the other side of the road and goes around him and exits the stage.*

Storyteller "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was, and when he saw him he had compassion."

Samaritan *With exaggerated movements as the story teller tells it, Enters the stage sees the man lying there goes up to him, gets a bandage out of his bag and starts to bandage him.*
How did this happen?

Traveler *Faintly and with effort*
Thieves, they took every thing

Samaritan Let's see if we can get you cleaned up
Pulls out oil and wine pouring them on the wounds As he bandages.
Now let's get you up on the animal, and I will take you to somewhere you can recover.

They move along the stage to the inn where they both go in the Samaritan puts the traveler to bed and takes care of him, lights are turned off and then back on to signal the morning. Samaritan goes to the inn keeper

Samaritan My friend fell into some thieves on the road, I must continue on my journey, Here are 2 denarii, please take care of him and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.

Storyteller *After telling this story Jesus asked " which of the three was neighbour to the traveler"*

Child One The Samaritan

Story teller That's right the Samaritan, his own people left him there to die. But the Samaritan helped him. And Samaritans and Jews didn't get along normally.

Interlude – Camel through the eye of the Needle

References – Luke 8 v 5

Song – Right said Obed [to the tune of "Right said Fred (Cup of Tea)]

Characters, The Storyteller, the camel, the camel people

To be acted out as sung to "Right said Fred (Cup of tea)" with Obed not actually helping do the unloading.

Obed Right

Camel handler (David) said Obed,
Obed "Both of us together
One on each end and steady as we go."

David Tried to shift it, couldn't even lift it
We was getting nowhere
And so we had a cuppa tea and

Obed Right

David said Obed,

Obed "Give a shout for Timothy."

David Up comes Timothy from the hut below.
After strainin', heavin' and complainin'

Timothy We was getting nowhere
And so we had a cuppa tea.

Obed And Timothy had a think, and he thought we ought to take off all
the sandals
And the things wot hold the candles.

David But it did no good, well I never thought it would

Obed "All right,"

David said Obed, "Have to take the beets off
To get them beets off wouldn't take a mo."

Timothy & David Took all beets off, even took the seat off
Should have got us somewhere but no!
So Obed said,

Obed "Let's have a cuppa tea."

Timothy & David And we said, "right-o."

Obed Right

David & Timothy said Obed,

Obed "Have to take the bags off
Need more space to get the camel through."

David Had bad aches taking off the soap cakes
And it got us nowhere

Timothy And so we had a cuppa tea and

Obed Right

David & Timothy said Obed,

Obed gotta get the camel through
This here camel through the needle eye's gotta go

Timothy Took the rugs off, even with them off
We were getting no where

David And so we had a cuppa tea

Obed And Timothy had a think, and he said,

Timothy "Look, Obed,
I get a sort of feelin'
If we remove everything'
With a rope or two we could get the camel through."

Obed "All right,"

David & Timothy said Obed, climbing up on the camel
With his elbow gave a mighty blow.

David Was he in trouble, half a ton of camel on the outside of the city.

Timothy Took the saddle and even with it all off
The camel only just made it though

David So Timothy and me had another cuppa tea
And then we went home

Timothy and David *Spoken back over the shoulder as they leave the stage*
"Obed, it's your turn, Load up the camel"

Tale Three – The Prodigal Son

References – Luke 15 v 11-32

Song – The Prodigal – Steve Grace

Characters, The Storyteller, the father, the son, his brother, the servant

Child two	Another story please!
Child three	One about a journey
Child one	And adventure
Storyteller	What about the Prodigal son?
All Children	OK
Storyteller	We can find it in Luke 15 "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father.
Son	'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.'
Story teller (while acted out on stage)	So his father divided up his goods, and gave his younger son his portion. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.
Child three	What does prodigal mean?
Storyteller	It means spending lots of money and was wasteful in what he bought. He bought things he didn't need, he was reckless and didn't save anything for later. <i>Short pause as the younger son goes about the stage buy things and spending money</i>
Story teller	But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want
Son	"I'm soo hungry, I need food!
Farmer	I will give you a job feeding my pigs
Son	Thank you <i>He goes and works feeding the pigs</i>
Story teller	But when he came to himself, he said,

Son 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."

Story teller And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

Son Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

Father *Turns to servants*
Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

Story teller And they began to celebrate
And his older brother returned from the field

Brother *Servant, come here and tell me what is going on?*

Servant Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.

Story teller But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him.

Father Please come and help us celebrate your brothers return to us, we can be a family again.

Brother Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

Father Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.

Child one So his dad still loved him even when he had run away from home?

Storyteller That's right and God loves us too even if we run away from him he will always welcome us home.

Song Steve Grace's song *Prodigal Son* on Children Of the Western World (1988)

Tale Four – Building Your House on the Rock

References – Luke 8 v 5

Song – Don't build your house on the sandy land

Characters, The Storyteller, the builders Dan and Nate, child one two and three.

Storyteller OK I think that is enough stories

Child one One more PLEAASE

Child Two Yes just the one

Story Teller Ok then just the one

Child three Yay

Story teller This one is about two men, both building houses

In what looks like a hardware store two builders meet

Builder one – Hi there Dan, how's it going? I hear you're building another house?
Nate

Builder two – Yes found a lovely place on the beach... sun, sand surf
Dan I hear that you are building one now too

Nate Yes found a spot on the rocks – great view

Story teller So the builders built their houses.

Dan & Nate *Build their houses*
 And again meet in the hardware store for supplies

Dan How's your house going? Mine should be finished next week.

Nate Just have the finishing touches to go. Should be done in a day or two.

Story teller And a week later their houses were complete

Story teller "The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against" the houses;

 The house on the rock was battered "yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."

But the house built on the sand did not have strong foundations and it fell down.

Child One

What did the man do?

Storyteller

Well he would have to build his house again, hopefully though the next time he will build it on better foundations

Jesus tells us that doing what he has asked us to do is like building your house on the rock. Matthew 7:24 – 27 says;
"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.
"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Child two

That's a little bit like the three little pigs isn't it?
The pig with the house of brick, didn't get his house blown down!

Storyteller

Looks like whoever wrote the three little pigs was using Jesus' teachings as a base, just like our stories today.

All (sing)

SANDYLAND

C
Don't build your house on the sandy land,
G7
don't build it too near the shore.
C C/Bb F/A F
Well, it might look kind of nice but you'll have to build it twice,
C G7 C
oh, you'll have to build your house once more.
You've got to build your house upon the rock,
G7
make a good foundation on a solid spot.
C C/Bb F/A F C G7 C
Oh, the storms may come and go, but the peace of God you will know.