

Once upon a time...



*there was a rich man...*

*The Parable of the Talents*



# Parable



# Parable

Para - “at or to one side of, beside, side by side”

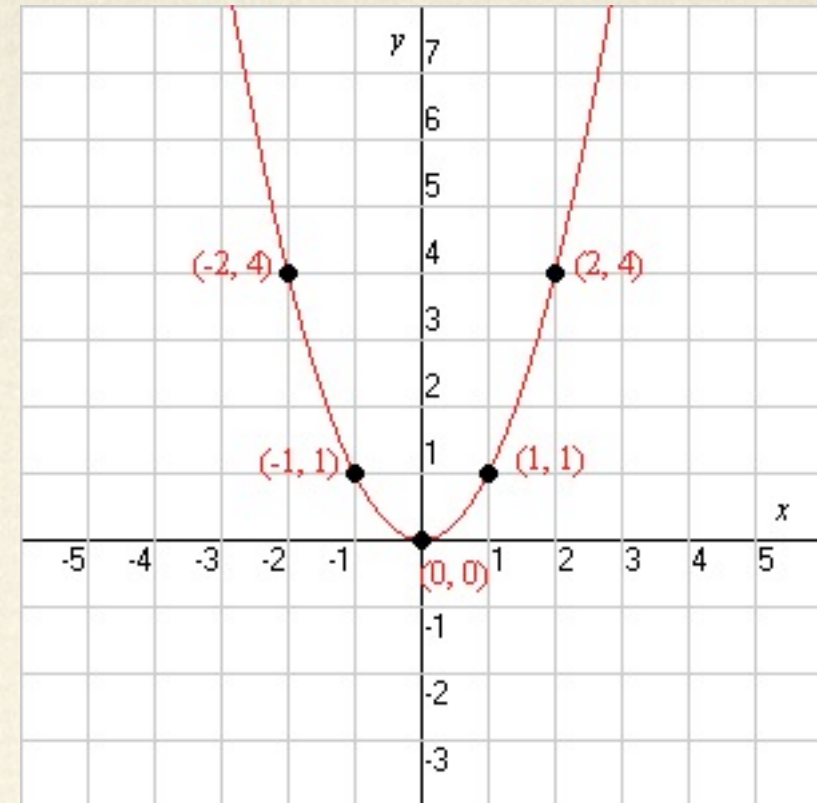
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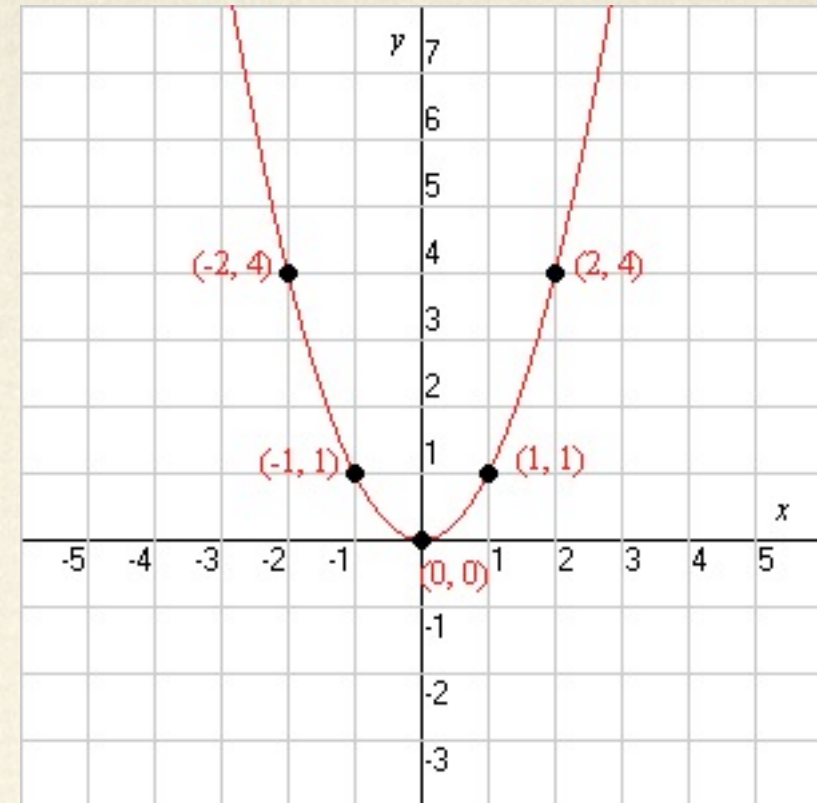




# Parable

Para - “at or to one side of, beside, side by side”

(*parabola*; *paragraph*; *parallel*; *paralysis* )





# Fable -

a short tale to teach a moral lesson, a story not founded on fact,  
a story about supernatural or extraordinary persons or incidents; legend,  
legends or myths collectively





Para

Fable



Fable

Para



# PaFable



# Parable



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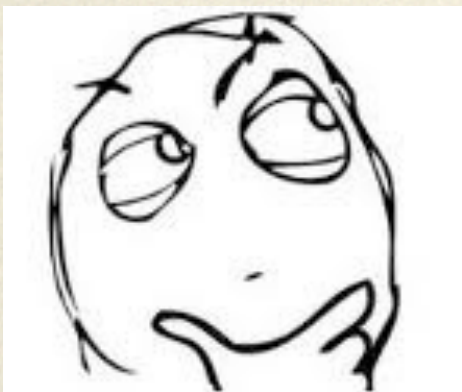
A short allegorical story designed to illustrate or teach some truth, religious principle, or moral lesson that conveys a meaning **indirectly** by the use of comparison, analogy, metaphor and so on.



the parable is not always absolutely clear,

...the purpose of a parable is to strike the imagination, to pique the curiosity, to make the listener reflect and work to arrive at the meaning, but only so that the lesson will be more deeply engraved on the mind.

...the purpose is achieved precisely because the speaker proceeds indirectly rather than directly. - Lagrange





# Types of Stories in Scripture

Exemplary Story

Similitude

Parable



# Exemplary Story

The exemplary story presents, not an analogy, but an example, one specific case which illustrates a general principle.

The Good Samaritan (Lk 10:29-37)

The Rich Fool (Lk 12:16-21);

The Rich Man and Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31);

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Lk 18:9-14).



# Similitude

- ❑ Concise
- ❑ Narrates a typical or recurrent event from real life.
- ❑ It tells a story which everyone would recognize as a familiar experience.
- ❑ No one, on hearing a similitude, is likely to deny this is the way life is.
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Such is how anyone would rejoice on finding a lost coin (Lk 15:8-10)





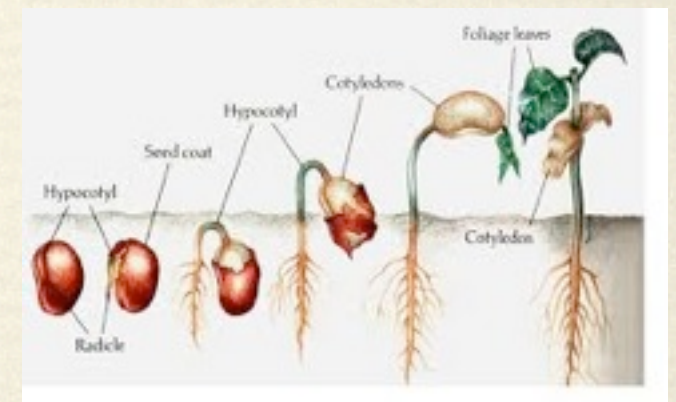
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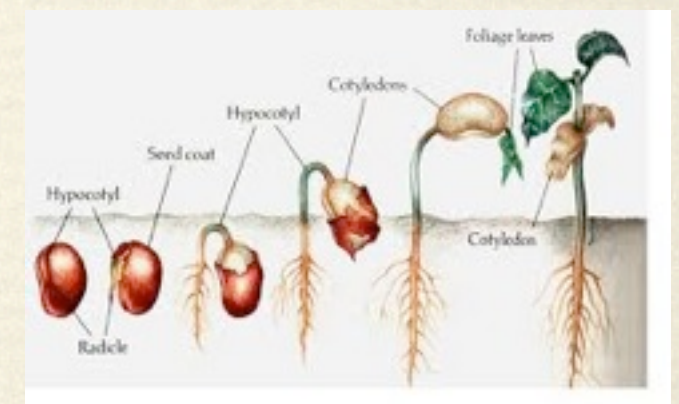
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This is how seed always grows to full harvest (Mk 4:26-29).

The kingdom of God is like... Mt 13:33





# The Parable





# The Parable

Also a comparison

Longer and more detailed than the similitude.

*Similitude* about something recurrent in *real life*

*Parable* is about a one-time *fictitious* event

Parables are "once upon a time" stories...





# The Parable of the Talents



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To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.



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"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'



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"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'



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"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'



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"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'



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"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'



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"So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'



Taken at face value this parable is telling us  
that God wants us to double our money.  
If we don't then we are evil and  
will not be accepted into Heaven.



The next level of interpretation  
might be this parable is telling us  
God has given us talents, gifts, skills and  
abilities. We are expected to use those  
talents and produce converts or  
we will be in big trouble.



The problem is: we never hear the master communicating any expectation, responsibility, obligation or even an order to obey.



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Why was the master upset given he would have been happy with just some interest?



Are the servants given:





Are the servants given:

Expectation  
Responsibility  
Obligation





Are the servants given:

Expectation  
Responsibility  
Obligation

OR





Are the servants given:

Expectation  
Responsibility  
Obligation

OR

Resources  
Opportunities  
Privilege





Are the servants given:

Expectation  
Responsibility  
Obligation

OR

Resources  
Opportunities  
Privilege



*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also;  
and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. John 14:12*





# Context





*...each was given "according to his ability."*



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God gives us the resources  
He knows we can handle.



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No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted ***beyond what you can bear.***

1 Cor 10:13

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God gives us the resources  
He knows we can handle.

Instead of praying for more resources,  
pray for more ability, knowledge, understanding and  
wisdom to handle the resources you already possess.



*"So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground."* Worry





*"So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground."* Worry



Worrying is the worshipping of our Fears! - Jay Ramirez

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink...

Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

And why do you worry about clothes?

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow...

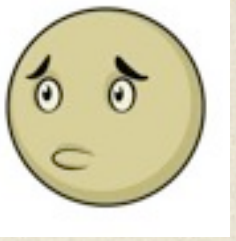
But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.



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Worrying slanders every promise in the Word of God!



# Third Slave lived in Fear



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What was the attitude of the first two slaves?



Third Slave lived in Fear

What was the attitude of the first two slaves?

Opposite of the third slave.



Third Slave lived in Fear

What was the attitude of the first two slaves?

Opposite of the third slave.

What is the opposite of Fear?



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What was the attitude of the first two slaves?

Opposite of the third slave.

What is the opposite of Fear?

Love



The first two slaves:

*...went at once and put his money to work...*



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*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18*



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***...went at once and put his money to work...***

*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18*

Love is patient, kind, honoring, not angered nor  
proud and doesn't boast.

Love protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres.

Love produces results.



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*God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind. 2 Tim 1:7*



The third servant who lived in fear was called evil.



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Living in Love is Holy.



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The third servant who lived in fear was called evil.

Living in Love is Holy.

You choose -





woman without her man is nothing



woman without her man is nothing

It all starts with Perception







Perception →



Perception → Belief →



Perception → Belief → Thought →



Perception → Belief → Thought → Emotion →



Perception → Belief → Thought → Emotion → Behavior



Perception → Belief → Thought → Emotion → Behavior

I watched you  
reap where you  
did not sow.



Perception → Belief → Thought → Emotion → Behavior

I watched you  
reap where you  
did not sow.

I believe you are  
a hard man.



Perception → Belief → Thought → Emotion → Behavior

I watched you  
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I can't do what he  
does...



Perception → Belief → Thought → Emotion → Behavior

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So I was  
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Perception → Belief → Thought → Emotion → Behavior

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and went out and  
hid your gold.



Perception → Belief → Thought → Emotion → Behavior

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I watched you  
make smart trades.



Perception → Belief → Thought → Emotion → Behavior

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I feel trusted  
and therefore  
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I'm worthless.



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I feel like a  
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I'll just keep asking  
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I have infinite  
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I can do all things  
through Christ...



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a clever man.

He must think I  
can do what he  
does...

I feel trusted  
and therefore  
confident...

so I went out and  
made smart trades  
with your gold.

I'm no good.

I'm worthless.

I can't do what  
God does...

I feel like a  
loser...

I'll just keep asking  
for forgiveness and  
apologize for living.

God loves me and  
redeemed me.

I have infinite  
worth to God.

I can do all things  
through Christ...

I feel alive and  
free...



# Perception → Belief → Thought → Emotion → Behavior

I watched you  
reap where you  
did not sow.

I believe you are  
a hard man.

I can't do what he  
does...

So I was  
afraid...

and went out and  
hid your gold.

I watched you  
make smart trades.

I believe you are  
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I feel alive and  
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I will love and serve  
others.



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*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials... James 1*



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*Proverbs 23:7 - For as a man thinks within himself so is he.*

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials... James 1*



# BE, DO, HAVE Model



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The Have, Do, Be approach doesn't work



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Once I HAVE a more disciplined prayer life  
I will be able to DO more for others  
and I will therefore BE an effective witness.



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Once I HAVE a more disciplined prayer life  
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I am (state of BEing) alive in Christ  
So I will DO what Jesus does  
as a result I find I have a disciplined prayer life full of joy.



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Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—**meditate on these things** [*the way a man thinks so he will BE*]. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these **DO**, and [*here's what you'll HAVE*] the God of peace will be with you. Phil 4:8-9



*“Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.”*





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Even the slightest thing you do...



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Even the slightest thing you do...

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Even the slightest thing you do...

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You are not expected to save the world



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Even the slightest thing you do...

will reap benefits

You are not expected to save the world



You have the opportunity  
to light up the part in which you live



God has given us the resources, opportunities  
and privilege of lighting our world.



God has given us the resources, opportunities  
and privilege of lighting our world.

Light your world,  
let the love of God shine through,  
in the little things you,  
light your world.

And though your light may be  
reaching only two or three,  
light your world.



God has given us the resources, opportunities  
and privilege of lighting our world.

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let the love of God shine through,  
in the little things you,  
light your world.

And though your light may be  
reaching only two or three,  
light your world.

‘Well done, good and faithful servant!  
Come and share your master’s happiness!’



All we all will live...



*in eternity with their Father!*