

Speaking in Parables

Two True Brothers

Philippians 2:3-4 - "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

Answer: Two brothers worked together on the family farm. One was married and had a large family. The other was single. At the day's end, the brothers shared everything equally, produce and profit.

Then one day the single brother said to himself "It's not right that we should share equally the produce and the profit. I'm alone and my needs are simple." So each night he took a sack of grain from his bin and crept across the field between their houses dumping it into his brother's bin.

Meanwhile, the married brother said to himself "It's not right that we should share the produce and the profit equally. After all I'm married and I have my wife and children to look after me in years to come. My brother has no one, and no one to take care of his future." So each night he took a sack of grain and dumped it into his single brother's bin.

Both men were puzzled for years because their supply of grain never dwindled. Then one dark night the two brothers bumped into each other. Slowly it dawned on them what was happening. They dropped their sacks and embraced one another.

Grandma's Glasses

1Samuel 16:7(ff) - "...For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Two small boys were discussing eye glasses. "Wouldn't you just hate to have to wear glasses?" one asked.

"No," answered the other, "not if I could have the kind of glasses my Grandma wears! My Mother says Grandma can always see when folks are tired or discouraged or sad. She sees when somebody is in need and she can always recognize when you have something on your mind that you need to talk over. But best of all she can always see something good in everybody!" The little fellow continued: "I asked my Grandma one day how it was that she could see that way. She said it was because of the way she's learned to look at things since she's gotten older. So I'm sure it must be those glasses of hers!"

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of us could see others through Grandma's glasses!

Boasting

James 4:16 - "But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil."

In the late 1600s the finest instruments originated from three families whose workshops were side-by-side in the Italian village of Cremona. First were the Amatis, and outside their shop the sign read: "The best violins in all of Italy." Not to be outdone, the family Guarnerius hung a bolder sign which proclaimed, "The best violins in all the

world!" At the end of the street was the workshop of Anton Stradivarius and on its front door was a simple notice which read: "The best violins on this street." (Freda Bright)

Puppies for Sale

2Corinthians 12:7-10 " And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

A store owner was tacking a sign above his door that read "Puppies For Sale." Signs like that have a way of attracting small children, and sure enough, a little boy appeared under the store owner's sign. "How much are you going to sell the puppies for?" he asked.

The store owner replied, "Anywhere from \$30 to \$50."

The little boy reached in his pocket and pulled out some change. "I have \$2.37," he said. "Can I please look at them?"

The store owner smiled and whistled and out of the kennel came Lady, who ran down the aisle of his store followed by five teeny, tiny balls of fur. One puppy was lagging considerably behind. Immediately the little boy singled out the lagging, limping puppy and said, "What's wrong with that little dog?"

The store owner explained that the veterinarian had examined the little puppy and had discovered it didn't have a hip socket. It would always limp. It would always be lame. The little boy became excited. "That is the little puppy that I want to buy."

The store owner said, "No, you don't want to buy that little dog. If you really want him, I'll just give him to you."

The little boy got quite upset. He looked straight into the store owner's eyes and said, "I don't want you to give him to me. That little dog is worth every bit as much as all the other dogs and I'll pay full price. In fact, I'll give you \$2.37 now, and my allowance of five dollars a month until I have him paid for."

The store owner countered, "You really don't want to buy this little dog. He is never going to be able to run and jump and play with you like the other puppies."

To this, the little boy reached down and rolled up his pant leg to reveal a badly twisted, crippled left leg supported by a big metal brace. He looked up at the store owner and softly replied, "Well, I don't run so well myself, and the little puppy will need someone who understands!" (Dan Clark, via Weathering the Storm)

Are You Blessed?

1Thessalonians 5:16-18 - "Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

"They huddled inside the storm door--two children in ragged out-grown coats. 'Any old papers, lady?' I wanted to say no... until I looked down at their feet, little

sandals sloped with sleet. 'Come in and I'll make you a cup of hot cocoa.' Their soggy sandals made marks upon the hearthstone. Cocoa, toast and jam to fortify against the chill outside. The girl held up her cup, looking at it. The boy asked in a flat voice, 'Lady, are you rich?' 'Am I rich? Oh my, no!' The girl put her cup back in the saucer carefully and said, 'Your cups match your saucers.' They then left, holding their papers against the wind. Plain blue pottery cups, but they MATCHED. Potatoes and brown gravy, a roof over our heads, and my husband with a good steady job. THESE THINGS MATCHED, TOO. The muddy prints of small sandals were still wet upon my hearth. I let them be. I wanted them there in case I ever forget again how very rich I really am!" May we always count our blessings and be grateful for them. (LeRoy Brownlow via Greatest Questions in the New Testament, pg 94, 1961)

A Moments Wisdom on Preaching

To love to preach is one thing-to love those to whom we preach, quite another. The world looks at ministers out of the pulpit to know what they mean when in it. Every Christian occupies some kind of pulpit and preaches some kind of sermon every day.

How's That Again?

(Genuine announcements taken from bulletins)

"Brother Kyle spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience."

"Irving Andrews and Jessie Holloway were married yesterday. Thus ends a friendship that began in school days."