



*Written by
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The Parable of “The Sheep And The Goats”

Scripture: Matthew 25: 31-46

Dramatic Category: “Fractured Parable”

What is a “Fractured Parable”?

A “Fractured Parable” is a contemporary, humorous re-telling of one of the parables of Jesus. The narrator, who may, or may not be involved in the action, tells the parable. As the parable is told, the mimes portray the action, occasionally using props and suggested costume pieces. The mimes generally wear black slacks, black turtleneck shirts or black and white striped shirts with black suspenders, and white gloves to accent their hand motions. They do not need to wear the traditional “white-face” of the mime genre. These “Fractured Parables” do not require any specific set.

Topic: Meeting the needs of those around us who are less fortunate.

Performance Time: 10 minutes

Number of Players: 6 players (*3 men, 3 women*)

Objective:

Jesus places such extreme importance on ministering to the needy that He puts Himself in the position of the one in need. He admonishes us to meet the needs we see in the people around us as though they were the needs of Christ Himself.

Synopsis:

This "Fractured Parable" presents the message of "The Sheep and the Goats" using commonplace, easily recognized needs, which people have, such as: loneliness, poverty, destructive habits, and emotional abuse. We seem almost "used to" hearing the commands to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit the abandoned, but how many of us notice those in need around us who suffer addictions to destructive habits, are desperately lonely or impoverished, or are victims of years of emotional abuse. This contemporary adaptation of Jesus' parable speaks to those "often hidden" human ailments and propels us to action.

Cast:

Narrator

Mimes

Sheep 1

Sheep 2

Sheep 3

Goat 1

Goat 2

NOTES:

1. When the script refers to “mimes,” they respond to the Narrator as neutral mimes, not as their assigned characters. When you see character names in the script, the mimes portray those characters; add character props to the standard mime costume, if you desire, such as: hats, neckties, a briefcase, a boa, etc.
2. Change the character names to reflect the gender of the mimes playing the parts.
3. The sheep portray “the nations,” and the goats portray “angels” in the first part of the skit.

Props: None

Sound: A wireless mic for the narrator

Staging:

Narrator

Sheep / the “nations”

Goats / Angels

Lighting: Even light across the stage

NOTE:

This skit is a narrated mime; this technique requires that the action described by the narrator be acted out in **pantomime** by “mimes” who **perform simultaneously** while the story is being told. The attention of the audience is on both the narrator and the mime action. Block the action of the mimes so that they illustrate the events being described by the narrator. Facial expression and interaction between the narrator and the mimes is suggested to add comedy and energy to the performance. The characters respond to what the narrator says. The action is almost constant.

The Script:

NOTE: The narrator's lines are in bold. *The mime directions are in italic.*

Narrator: When the Son of Man comes in all of his glory with all his angels with him,

(Two girls flap their arms like wings and stand on either side of the Narrator as he tells the story.)

he will sit in judgment

(Angels fold their arms and frown at the people.)

on his throne

(The Narrator folds his arms as well.)

with all the nations gathered before him,

(the other three bow before him on their knees.)

and He will separate the people into two groups as a shepherd separates his sheep.

(While still on their knees and moving on all fours, everybody starts milling around the stage bleating and baaaaing. Those who were angels, join the sheep as goats. They bump into the Narrator.)

Then he will separate the sheep on his right; and the goats on his left.

(Three become sheep on the right; and two become goats on the left. They stand in a "V" formation, occasionally bleating and baaaaing.)

And then he will say to those on his right,

"You have my father's blessing.

Come, and enter the kingdom that has been ready since the world was made."

(Sheep file on all fours between the Narrator's legs; he brands them as their back ends pass between his legs. The Narrator makes a hissing sound like a branding iron; the one passing through makes a squeal and stands up once he has passed between the Narrator's legs. Three sheep stand up on the right side of the Narrator, assuming the posture of people. One of the goats tries to get into the line up, but the Narrator stops him. The goat returns to his ranks, and the goats look on, bleating now and then.)

For when I was picked on,

(The Narrator pretends to be picked on, and one of the sheep intervenes and defends him.)

You defended me.

When I needed a friend,

(The Narrator looks lonely and one of the sheep puts his hand out for the Narrator to shake.)

You were there for me.

When I did what was wrong,

(The Narrator pretends to toast with a glass, and one of the sheep grabs his hand and stops him.)

You corrected me.

And when I was broke,

(The Narrator reaches into his pockets and finds no money, but a sheep pretends to hand him some.)

You loaned me money.

When I wasn't "cool" any longer,

(The Narrator pretends to be up to bat, at a baseball game. The sheep begin to cheer hopefully. The Narrator swings, misses, but the sheep console him; they pat him on the shoulders and cheer him up.)

You still accepted me.

Sheep 1: Master, when was it we saw you picked on, and we defended you?

Sheep 2: Or in need of a friend, and we were there for you?

Sheep 3: When did you do something wrong and we corrected you?

Sheep 1: You've never needed money, have you?

All Sheep: And you've always been cool?

Narrator: **And then he will say to them,
"Anything you did for one of your brothers or sisters,
however small it may have seemed at the time,
you did for me.**

Sheep: *(In unison and in confusion)* Oh, it was for you, well...
if you put it that way, I guess we...
it was you all along, well I never...
did you ever let it on it was you, etc...

Narrator:
(Hushing them, and turning to the goats. The sheep cower as he hushes them and return to their sheep status.)

Then He will turn to those on his left, and he will say,

(The goats look indignant, and rise to their human status. They dust themselves off as though it has been below their dignity to grovel on the ground like goats.)

A curse is upon you!

(They shudder at the word "curse" and take a step back.)

You go from my sight into the eternal fire....

(They approach him to try to talk this over. Narrator raises his voice and repeats loudly.)

**To the eternal fire, that has been made ready for you with the devil
and his angels.**

For when I was picked on,

(Narrator pretends to be picked on, and one of the goats pretends to yell at him even more.)

You did not defend me.

When I needed a friend,

(The Narrator looks lonely and one of the goats puts his hand out for the Narrator to shake, but just as the Narrator reaches out, the goat pulls his hand back and laughs.)

You were not there for me.

When I did what was wrong,

(The Narrator pretends to toast with a glass, and one of the goats grabs a glass, toasts the Narrator, and pretends to join him.)

You did not stop me.

And when I was broke,

(The Narrator reaches into his pockets and finds no money. The goats pretend to count money and turn their heads.)

You did not loan me money.

And when I wasn't "cool" any longer,

(The Narrator pretends to be up to bat, at a baseball game. The goats begin to cheer hopefully. The Narrator swings, misses, and the goats mock him and turn away.)

You made fun of me.

Goat 1: Aw, Master, if we had known it was you, we would have taken you out for a burger!

Goat 2: Or let you take another shot at the ball.

Goat 1: We would have loaned you a quarter.

Goat 2: Or set you straight.

(The goats begin justifying themselves wildly. The Narrator stops them)

Narrator: **Anything you did not do for one of these brothers or sisters of mine, no matter how small it may seem at the time, you did not do for me.**

Goats: Baaaaa! *(Like they are sobbing.)*

Narrator: **Take your place in eternal punishment.**

(He points to his left and the goats hang their heads while shuffling off to the left.)

(To the sheep on his right:)

but the righteous, shall have eternal life, and party time forever!

(The righteous join the Narrator in hugs and shaking hands as they exit together off to the right.)

The End