



*Written by  
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## **The Parable of “Lazareeta And The Rich Woman”**

**Scripture:** Luke 16:19-31

**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:** Share your worldly goods with the poor while you can.

**Performance Time:** 8 minutes

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

### **Objective:**

Heed the warnings of God’s prophets and teachers to share your worldly goods with the poor while you can because after death, you will not have a chance to exhibit the love of God, and you will be forever sorry.

### **Synopsis:**

This is a modern, comical re-telling of Jesus parable of "Lazarus and the Rich Man." The same point is made clear, however, and that is the extreme importance God places on our treatment of the poor and the unfortunate among us. The stern warning of eternal punishment for those who ignore the needs of others is clearly represented; but on the opposite end of that dismal reality is the eternal reward that awaits those who have been downcast, and destitute on earth. God's judgment is perfect, and our role is only to alleviate what suffering we can with the opportunities we are given.

**Cast:**

- Narrator
- Mimes
  - Lazareeta
  - Rich Woman
  - Father Abraham
  - Angel/Devil/Game Show host/prophet
  - Angel/Devil/Game Show host/prophet/Dog

**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 Narrator changes his voice four times, then alternates according to who is mouthing the words. He is himself, a rich woman, a Jewish man, and a game show host. Finally, he recites his own brand of “Yiddish.”

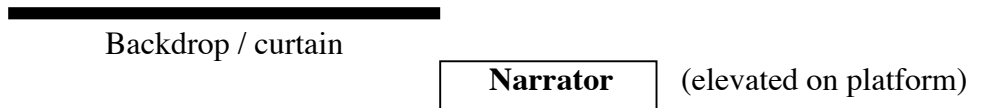
**Props:**

The audience's imagination is what creates the set and most of the props in a "narrated mime" such as this one. The only props needed to add to the comic tone of this piece are:

- A black top hat like Abraham Lincoln would wear
- 2 "stone tablets," shaped like the 10 Commandments tablets, made of tag board
- 3 felt Jewish prayer hats
- 2 "game show" host hats, either party hats or glittered derbies
- Fancy, costume jewelry rings

**Sound:** A wireless mic for the Narrator

**Staging:**



**Set:**

Hang a simple curtain, or line up some silk plants to serve as a screen behind which the mines can disappear, then re-appear as different characters. This is also a good place for them to hide their props.

**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 lines are in bold.** *The mime directions are in italic.*

**Narrator:** *(jumps up on a box, and addresses the audience boldly)*

**There was once a rich man....**

**Rich Woman:**

*(Clears her throat as she stands center stage, glaring at the narrator.)*

**Narrator:** *(noticing that this is a woman, and not a man)*

**Oh, excuse me.**

**There was once a rich woman,  
who shopped at only the finest boutiques,  
and wore only the most expensive clothes.**

**Narrator as Rich Woman:**

*(Models for the audience and shows off her fancy rings.)*

**That's me!**

**Narrator:** **And everyday she feasted in the greatest magnificence.**

*(The rich woman begins to gorge herself on food.)*

**And at her gate lay a poor man, named Lazarus...**

**Lazareeta:**

*(Clears her throat and glares at the narrator as she assumes a position on the floor, with one hand raised in a begging motion toward the rich woman.)*

**Narrator:**

*(Sees that he made the same mistake again, and quickly raises his voice to sound like an old woman.)*

**I mean, Lazareeta,  
who would have been glad to satisfy her hunger  
with the scraps from the rich woman's table.**

**Narrator as rich woman:**

*(Licking her fingers)*

**Hmm; just the way I like it.**

*(She whistles for her dog. One of the mimes becomes the dog, she hands him a scrap of food while Lazareeta looks on, ignored by the rich woman.)*

**Narrator:** **Even the doggie used to come up and lick Lazareeta's open, running sores.**

**Dog:**

*(The dog nuzzles Lazareeta and sneezes, and coughs like dogs do when they inhale sand or dust. The dog crawls away behind the backdrop.)*

**Narrator:** **Well, one day, the poor woman died.**

*(The woman gasps and falls down dead.)*

**And was carried away by the angels.**

**Angels:**

*(Two angels come out on tiptoe flapping their arms like wings. They pick up Lazareeta and carry her DR (down right) where she is comforted by Father Abraham who puts on his felt Jewish prayer hat and waits there for her. The angels disappear behind the backdrop.)*

**Narrator:** **The rich woman also died.**

**Angels/Demons:**

*(The Rich Woman chokes on some food and collapses on the stage. The two who were angels, appear from behind the backdrop as demons, hunched over with their claws out. With hideous expressions on their faces, they approach the Rich Woman.)*

**Narrator:** **And was buried in Hades.**

*(The demons light fires around the woman, who silently screams in torment, as she tries to put the fires out.)*

**Where she was in torment.**

**She looked up,  
and off in the distance she saw Father Abraham**

*(Abraham puts his arm around Lazareeta)*

**with Lazareeta close beside him.**

**Narrator as rich woman:** *(disguising his voice like a woman)*  
**Father Abraham!**

**Narrator:** *(back to his normal voice)*  
**The rich woman cried out,**

*(The Narrator raises his voice to sound like a woman again. The Rich Woman mouths the words as the Narrator speaks.)*

**Narrator as rich woman:**           **"Have pity on me!  
Send Lazareeta to dip the tip of her finger in water  
to cool my tongue  
for I am in agony in this fire."**

*(returning to his normal voice)*

**Narrator:**                               **Then Abraham Spoke:**

**Abraham:**

*(putting on his top hat as the angels begin humming "The Battle Hymn of the Republic.)*

"Four score and seven years ago, our forefathers..."

**Narrator:**

*(motioning to Abraham as all the others turn to him and shake their heads.)*

**Ah...umm...  
wrong "Abraham."  
Not Abraham Lincoln,  
Father Abraham!**

*(Abraham takes off his hat in embarrassment.)*

**Narrator:**

*(resuming control of the situation)*

**Then Father Abraham responded to the Rich Woman saying,**

*(Abraham mouths the words to the rich woman and the Narrator speaks in a thick Jewish accent)*

**Narrator as Jewish Man:**

**"Remember, my child,  
that all the good things fell to you while you were on earth  
and all the bad to Lazareeta;  
and now it is she who has consolation here,  
and it is you who are in agony.  
But that's not the half of it folks!**

*(turning to the back of the stage:)*

**Hey, Hershel, tell 'em about the prizes!**

**Narrator as Game Show Host:**

*(The Narrator changes his voice to a game show host. The game show assistants come out from either side of the backdrop, wearing glittery hats. One mouths the Narrator's words while the other points out the prizes and opens imaginary doors.)*

**Well, all right, Abe.  
Behind door #1, we have Heaven, the celestial city,**

*(The imaginary door opens on Abraham and Lazareeta)*

**like a bride coming out of Heaven  
adorned for the bridegroom, Jesus,  
where there will be joy and happiness,  
and party-time forever!**

**And now, let's look underneath, at door #2**

*(The assistant opens an imaginary trap door where the Rich Woman is in Hades.)*

**...in Hell, the eternal fire  
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth,  
in the place prepared for the devil  
and his angels for all eternity.**

**But, that's not all!**

*(The game show assistants stand on either side of an imaginary canyon; they stare into it, try to step across it, but can't.)*

**There's a big canyon between us,  
and nobody from your side, who wants to cross it, can,  
and no one from our side who wants to cross it can either.,**

**ain't that right Abe?**

**Narrator as Jewish man:** *(Back to the Jewish accent)*  
**That's right Hershel!**

*(The game show assistants disappear behind the backdrop and put on the Jewish prayer hats and prepare to bring out the Ten Commandments. The Rich Woman reaches up to Heaven; the narrator changes his voice back to a high-pitched, desperate woman's voice as Lazareeta mouths the words.)*

**Narrator as woman:** **Then, Father Abraham, send Lazarus  
to my father's house where I have five brothers.  
Warn them  
so that they too may not come to this place of torment.**

*(Switching back to the thick Jewish accent of Father Abraham, as the two assistants come out, one holding the Ten Commandments and the other one shaking his finger while preaching with enthusiasm.)*

*(Father Abraham mouths these words)*

**Narrator as Jewish Man:**        **They've got Moses and the prophets.  
They should listen to them.**

*(The prophets come out, wearing prayer caps. One carries the tag-board cut out of the Ten Commandments while the other one points and pretends to read in "Yiddish." It's funny if the Narrator imitates "Yiddish" while the prophet is pointing.)*

**Narrator as Rich Woman:**        *(changing his voice to the Rich Woman again)*

**But if someone from the dead should rise,  
then, surely, they would listen.**

**Narrator as Jewish Man:**

*(Switching back to the Jewish accent, as Abraham answers her. Abraham is offended by being called "Shirley.")*

**Don't call me "Shirley." I hate that!**

*(Regaining his composure.)*

**Now, lookey here...**

**If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,  
they ain't gonna' listen to nobody,  
even if someone should rise from the dead!**

*(Father Abraham hugs Lazareeta, and the Rich Woman reaches her hand up to Father Abraham. This pose freezes as the Narrator addresses the audience soberly and in his normal voice.)*

**Narrator:**                                **Someone has risen from the dead.  
Will you listen to him?**

**The End**