



*Written by
Cora Alley*

The Parable of “The Two Bridesmaids”

Scripture: Matthew 25: 1-13

Dramatic Category: “Fractured Parable”

What is a “Fractured Parable”?

A “Fractured Parable” is a contemporary, humorous retelling 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: Be ready for Jesus to return at any moment!

Performance Time: 15 minutes

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

Objective:

We are not given “second chances” to be ready to meet Jesus, we are either constantly on the look out for Him, with our lives in order, or we are not. If we are caught unaware, we will be left.

Synopsis:

This skit is designed to help people understand that "foolish people are those who do not prepare when they “know the big day is coming." The similarity is drawn between the wise bridesmaid, who prepares for the wedding by having her dress fitted, and the wise virgins spoken of in Jesus' parable of the "Ten Virgins." The audience is admonished to prepare for the coming of the groom, Jesus, and not be left behind like the foolish bridesmaid, who, in this skit, put off having her dress fitted, and missed the wedding entirely!

Cast:

- Narrator 1
- Narrator 2
- Mimes
 - The Bride
 - The Bridegroom
 - Bridesmaid 1 *the unprepared bridesmaid*
 - Bridesmaid 2 *the prepared bridesmaid*

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.

Props:

- A nylon veil
- A large bouquet
- 2 smaller bouquets
- A top hat and cane
- 6 signs that say "CHOICES" (card stock or poster board at least 8 1/2” x 11” in size)
- A small bag of "Ruffles" potato chips

Sound: A wireless mic for the narrator

Stage Arrangement:

Bridegroom

Bride

Bridesmaid 1

Bridesmaid 2

Narrator 1 on platforms

Narrator 2

NOTE:

This skit is a narrated mime; this technique requires that the action described by the Narrators 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 Narrators and the mime action. The Bride, Bridegroom, Bridesmaid 1, and Bridesmaid 2 act out everything the Narrators say while they are saying it. They mouth the words of the Narrators when the Narrators speak for them. We never hear the “mimes” voices. The Narrators are up on boxes at stage left. The Bride stands between the two girls up stage center, all three have their backs to the audience. The Bridegroom stands at up stage right, with his back to the audience. Facial expression and interaction between the narrators and the mimes is suggested to add comedy and energy to the performance. The characters respond to what the narrators are saying. The action is almost constant.

The Script:

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

Narrator 2: Jesus enjoyed a good wedding.

Narrator 1: He told lots of stories about them, like this one...

Narrator 2: In Matthew 25, verse one. “The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids.”

Narrator 1: Now for our wise and foolish version...

Narrator 2: Version?

Narrator 1: Yeah, our version of the story!

Narrator 2: Actually, we have ten versions.

Narrator 1: Never mind.
(disgusted with Narrator 2's lame wit.)
Our live-action cameras will take you right to the wedding.

(Both narrators turn around and get into character. Narrator 1 as Robin Leech, and puts on the bow tie; Narrator 2 eyes the girls.)

(in his Robin Leech voice)

Welcome ladies and gentlemen to another look at lifestyles of the dull and average. I am your host, Robin Parasite.

Narrator 2: I thought it was Robin Leech.

Narrator 1: Leech, Parasite; same thing.
Today we travel to beautiful _____. *(name of the town you're in.)*

Narrator 2: To attend the wedding of a local beauty. *(The Bride turns.)*

Narrator 1: What a beauty.
(Narrator 2 gives a wolf whistle and Narrator 1 pokes him.)

Narrator 2: Now, she's pretty!

Narrator 1: And her handsome hunk of masculine perfection
(The Bridegroom turn and flexes.)

Narrator 2:

(Steps down and heads toward The Bride. Narrator 1 grabs him and pulls him back.)

Narrator 1: Not you, him!

(He points to The Bridegroom.)

Narrator 2: Him! What does she see in him?

Narrator 1: *(ignoring Narrator 2)* **As the great day of the wedding approaches, our bride and groom find themselves surrounded by choices.**

(Bridesmaid 2 and Bridesmaid 1 turn around and each hold three CHOICES cards as though they were playing cards. They encircle the bride and groom holding them up. The Bridegroom and The Bride play "Pick a card" as though it were a card trick. Bridesmaid 2 or Bridesmaid 1 nod cheerfully or frown showing their agreement or disagreement with the choice made. The Bride and The Bridegroom get frazzled.)

Narrator 2: Pretty soon the poor girl got frazzled and all mixed up. She figured she'd probably hooked up with the wrong guy, and she called the whole thing...

(He takes off to go to The Bride, but Narrator 1 grabs him and pulls him back.)

Narrator 1: *(interrupting Narrator 2 as he pulls him back upon the box.)*

... a wonderful, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

But she told her beloved that she and her two lovely bridesmaids

(Bridesmaid 2 and Bridesmaid 1 turn and bow.)

Narrator 2: Hey, they're not bad either. Maybe one of them....

Narrator 1: Would take care of the preparations, and not to worry his handsome self about it. So he went on about his normal routine of making important manly decisions in the business world and preparing a home for his lovely bride. And he left.

(The Bridegroom begins to exit)

Narrator 2: He left her? A sweet thing like that?

Narrator 1: Not for good! For a while. He pledged his love to her saying,

(Narrator 1's voice gets very macho. The Bridegroom returns, holds both The Bride's hands and mouths the words.)

**"My darling, I'll be back in a flash, with lots of cash,
I'll see you again, when we do the ring thing."**

(The Bridegroom waves good-bye and exits.)

**Narrator 2: So she had to do everything all by herself?
What a lousy guy.
She deserves better.**
(He begins to go to her, but Narrator 1 stops him again.)

**Narrator 1: Not by herself. Her two bridesmaids would help her.
They set out right away taking care of all the details.
They ordered flowers...**

Narrator 2: Ordered food.

Narrator 1: Found a reception hall.

Narrator 2: Saw the price!

Narrator 1: Found another reception hall.

Narrator 2: Ordered more food.

Narrator 1: Found a soloist.

Narrator 2:
(singing at the top of his lungs "Oh my Love My Darling..." from the Righteous Brothers, or some other love song.)

**Narrator 1: (staring at Narrator 2 as all three girls do too.)
Found another soloist!
Then, in the middle of all the hectic preparations they shouted...**

Narrator 2: (in a girly voice) Hold it!
(The girls prepare to shout, but look at Narrator 2 again, disdainfully.)

**Narrator 1: Hold it?
Women don't say, "hold it!"
They say, "AAHHHHH"**

(Narrator 1 screams like a woman who has seen a mouse. The three girls scream in pantomime.)

We forgot the most important thing!

Narrator 2: **The vows?**

Narrator 1: **No, the dresses!**

Narrator 2: **The dresses?**

Narrator 1: **The dresses!**
So they set off trying on dress after dress.
They found some with short sleeves.

(The girls pantomime putting on dress after dress as the men narrate.)

Narrator 2: **With ruffles.**

(Bridesmaid 1 proudly displays the Ruffles chips.)

Narrator 1: **With long sleeves.**

Narrator 2: **With no ruffles.**

Narrator 1: **With bustles.**

Narrator 2: **What's a bustle?**

Narrator 1: **That's a lot of stuff in the back.**

Narrator 2: **Lots of women have that problem.**

(The three girls strike a defiant pose and scowl at the men.)

Narrator 1: **Not that, silly. It's a fashion thing.**

Narrator 2: **Oh.**
(apologetically, looking at the girls.)
I didn't know!

Narrator 1: **Finally, our lovely bride found her dress.**

Narrator 2: **And our lovely bridesmaids found their dresses too.**
But they had a problem.
The style was perfect,

Narrator 1: **The fit was wrong!**

Narrator 2: **One little lovely said,**

Narrator 1: *(Bridesmaid 2 pantomimes this.)*
(imitating a woman's voice) **Ohhhh Noooo!**
I can't wear this thing!
It's miles too big!

Narrator 2: **Meanwhile the other lovely could hardly move in her dress.**

(Bridesmaid 1 looks very cramped.)

Narrator 1: *(in a girly voice, hardly able to talk)* **I can't breath in this thing.**

Narrator 2: **What were they going to do?**

Narrator 1: **“Simple,” The Bride said. “We'll have them altered!”**

Narrator 2: *(in a panic)* **You're going to have them altered?**

Narrator 1: **The dresses, dummy.... They're going to alter the dresses.**

Narrator 2: **Oh, okay.**

Narrator 1: **So, the wise Bridesmaid, took her dress to the seamstress right away.**
She didn't waste a minute.
But, the foolish Bridesmaid figured she's do it later.

(Bridesmaid 2 goes to the seamstress, and Bridesmaid 1 looks on and laughs at her.)

Narrator 2: **Now why did ya' go and call her foolish?**
That's not very nice.

Narrator 1: **When you don't prepare for a big day,**
and let it sneak up on you, you're foolish.
No two ways about it.

Narrator 2: **But she's so cute.**

(Bridesmaid 1 winks at him)

Narrator 1; **Lots of cute people are foolish.**
Anyway, the preparations continued.

Narrator 2: **They picked out green mints.**

Narrator 1: **And pink flowers.**

Narrator 2: **Violin music**

Narrator 1: And roast beef.

Narrator 2: The big day was getting closer.

**Narrator 1: So the wise bridesmaid went to have her dress fitted,
but the foolish one figured she'd do it later.**

(Bridesmaid 2 fits her dress, but Bridesmaid 1 is busy arranging flowers.)

Narrator 2: You still don't have to call her names.

Narrator 1: Hey, sometimes, the truth hurts!

Narrator 2: Finally, the big day came!

Narrator 1: The man of her dreams arrived!

(The Bridegroom turns around and puts a flower in his shirt and knocks on the imaginary door behind which the girls frantically begin dressing.)

Narrator 2: The girls got dressed.

(The Bride puts the veil on, and helps Bridesmaid 2 zip her imaginary dress which fits perfectly. Both girls stare at Bridesmaid 1, who can't fit into her imaginary dress. They try to help her zip it up, but it won't work.)

Narrator 1: And they looked great!

Narrator 2: Oh well, two out of three's not bad.

**Narrator 1: The foolish bridesmaid had not had her dress altered,
and now it was too late.**

Narrator 2: The ceremony was about to start.

Narrator 1: *(in a desperate female voice)* "Let's switch dresses," she begged.

(Bridesmaid 2 and Bridesmaid 1 mouth these words.)

**Narrator 2: *(in a sassy female voice)* "Nope! Mine fits fine.
You should have been altered!"**

Narrator 1: *(stares at Narrator 2; Bridesmaid 2 stares at Bridesmaid 1)*

**Narrator 2: I mean the dress; you should have had it altered.
(very high-pitched tone) It's too late now!**

(Bridesmaid 2 mouths)

Narrator 1: **The foolish bridesmaid pleaded with the groom.**

Narrator 2: *(desperate female voice)* **Can't you come a little later?**

(Bridesmaid 1 pleads with The Bridegroom who turns a deaf ear to her.)

Narrator 1: **The desperate bridesmaid realized
that the most horrible thing that could possibly happen to a woman
was about to happen to her.**

Narrator 2: **She would miss the wedding?**

Narrator 1: **No, she would look bad in public!**

Narrator 2: **Oh, no! Not that! Anything, but that!**

Narrator 1: **So she ran off to the seamstress.**

(Bridesmaid 1 runs off in a panic.)

Narrator 2: **Hoping she could iron out her problem!
Get it? “iron it out...” seamstress...**

Narrator 1: *(glaring at Narrator 2)* **The music started.**

Narrator 2: **The candles were lit.**

Narrator 1: **The wise bridesmaid started down the aisle,
and then The Bride's great moment came.**

Narrator 2: **She saw her bridegroom?**

Narrator 1: **Nope; all eyes were on her, and she knew she looked good!**

(The Bride walks down the aisle after the Bridesmaids and turns all the way around for all to see how pretty she is in her imaginary dress.)

Narrator 2: **She walked to meet the love of her life,**

(The Bride walks to meet The Bridegroom who awaits her at the other end of the stage.)

and all the guests were happy to be at such a great party.

(They turn around to signify that the wedding has taken place, and now they are at the reception.)

Narrator 1: Eventually, the foolish bridesmaid arrived;
but there was no one at the church.

Narrator 2: They were all at the reception!

Narrator 1: She didn't know how to get there.

Narrator 2: The maps were in the church, but the church was locked.

Narrator 1: She pounded on the door, hoping that somebody would hear her.

Narrator 2: But somebody had gone to the reception too!
Poor girl!

Narrator 1: The groom had taken his bride,
and she missed the whole thing.

Narrator 2: Because she wasn't ready.

Narrator 1: She was foolish.

Narrator 2: Yep... you can't call it anything else.
If you don't get ready for the big day
when 'ya know it's commin'
I guess you're just plain...

Narrator 1: Foolish.

Narrator 2: I still don't like to say it.

Narrator 1: *(Addressing the audience in his regular voice)*
Make yourself ready now,
or you will miss the moment when the heavenly Bridegroom comes
for his Bride, the Church.

Narrator 2: And that would be...
(He hesitates to say it,) foolish!

The End