

FOUR PARABLES: Parable 3 – The Lost Coin

Jesus' parables are wonderful to read and act. They are short, and have a strong message. They offer wonderful opportunities for the development of character in a few lines. I suggest that you begin by reading each play, if possible recording it. Then read it again, probably much better. Discuss the meaning: Are there lost coins in your school. etc. Directions for acting the scenes are given below.

THE LOST COIN

SOURCE: Luke 15:8-10

CHARACTERS: **MARIA**, a young housewife
PABLO, her husband
NEIGHBORS, **MRS. JACKSON** and **MRS. BARTON**

KEYS TO SUCCESS: This is a wonderful scene for display of character in a few lines. **MARIA** goes from greed to panic to anger with **PABLO** to exasperation with the neighbors, and then ends up happy. **PABLO** is sleepy, then angry, and then puzzled (Women!). The **NEIGHBORS** are straight roles, nosey but nice.

PROPS and STAGE: A table, with three chairs. Cloth and candlestick, optional. Rug downstage from table. Bag of coins. Broom. Entrance for **PABLO** right, for **NEIGHBORS** left.

THE LOST COIN

MARIA: (*SEATED AT TABLE*) There! Soon we will be able to buy our new home, and there won't be all these dirty corners and this leaky roof. Let me count them again! (*POURS OUT COINS: SOME FALL*) Not so fast Careful! You don't want to run away from me, do you? Now: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9---oh, no! It can't be---where is it? Where's the tenth coin? (*SHOUTS*) Pablo! Quick! Quick! I've lost a coin. Hurry!

PABLO: (*ENTERING SLOWLY AFTER A PAUSE, VERY SLEEPY*) What is it, Maria? What are you doing up at this hour? It isn't even light yet.

MARIA: I've lost one of our coins. We have to find it! We have to!

PABLO: (*BECOMING ANGRY*) How could you be so careless?

MARIA: Stop scolding me and look for it!

PABLO: I never should have let you keep the coins---

MARIA: (*LOUD AND ANGRY*) You are too lazy to do anything!

PABLO: (*SHOUTS*) Lazy! At least I don't throw away our money. (*ENTER NEIGHBORS, EXCITED BY THE SOUND OF A QUARREL*)

JACKSON: Whatever is the matter with you people?

BARTON: You're waking up the whole street. What is it?

MARIA: It's nothing. Please go away and leave us alone.

PABLO: (*SHOUTS*) Nothing? You lose a tenth of our savings and call it nothing?

JACKSON: Savings! You mean you've lost some money?

MARIA: Yes, but I'll find it. Pablo, hand me that broom! (*MARIA AND THE NEIGHBORS ON THE FLOOR AROUND THE TABLE, BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER. PABLO WATCHES FROM*)

BARTON: Try under the rug!

MARIA: I've looked there. Oh, I wish you'd leave me alone!

JACKSON: We're only trying to help you, Maria.

MARIA: (*SHE HAS USED THE BROOM TO FIND THE COIN UNDER A CHAIR*) There! Thank God I've found it!

PABLO: That's a blessing! In future, don't be so---

MARIA: Stop blaming me, Pablo, and put the coffee on. We're all going to celebrate.

PABLO: Celebrate what? I don't see---

MARIA: You wouldn't. You're only a man. Sit down, neighbors!

BARTON: Thank you, Maria.

JACKSON: Isn't that wonderful for you?

MARIA: Oh, yes, it's wonderful. To think of it---I thought my coin was lost, and now I've found it.

PABLO: (*THROWING UP HIS HANDS*) Women!

CUE CARD FOR MARIA

MARIA: (*SEATED AT TABLE*) There! Soon we will be able to buy our new home, and there won't be all these dirty corners and this leaky roof. Let me count them again! (*POURS OUT COINS: SOME FALL*) Not so fast Careful! You don't want to run away from me, do you? Now: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9---oh, no! It can't be--- where is it? Where's the tenth coin? (*SHOUTS*) Pablo! Quick! Quick! I've lost a coin. Hurry!

PABLO: (*ENTERING SLOWLY AFTER A PAUSE, VERY SLEEPY*) What is it, Maria? What are you doing up at this hour? It isn't even light yet.

MARIA: I've lost one of our coins. We have to find it! We have to!

PABLO: (*BECOMING ANGRY*) How could you be so careless?

MARIA: Stop scolding me and look for it!

PABLO: I never should have let you keep the coins---

MARIA: (*LOUD AND ANGRY*) You are too lazy to do anything!

PABLO: (*SHOUTS*) Lazy! At least I don't throw away our money.

(*ENTER NEIGHBORS, EXCITED BY THE SOUND OF A QUARREL*)

JACKSON: Whatever is the matter with you people?

BARTON: You're waking up the whole street. What is it?

MARIA: It's nothing. Please go away and leave us alone.

PABLO: (*SHOUTS*) Nothing? You lose a tenth of our savings and call it nothing?

JACKSON: Savings! You mean you've lost some money?

MARIA: Yes, but I'll find it. Pablo, hand me that broom! (*MARIA AND THE NEIGHBORS ON THE FLOOR AROUND THE TABLE, BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER. PABLO WATCHES FROM*)

BARTON: Try under the rug!

MARIA: I've looked there. Oh, I wish you'd leave me alone!

JACKSON: We're only trying to help you, Maria.

MARIA: (*SHE HAS USED THE BROOM TO FIND THE COIN UNDER A CHAIR*) There! Thank God I've found it!

PABLO: That's a blessing! In future, don't be so---

MARIA: Stop blaming me, Pablo, and put the coffee on. We're all going to celebrate.

PABLO: Celebrate what? I don't see---

MARIA: You wouldn't. You're only a man. Sit down, neighbors!

BARTON: Thank you, Maria.

JACKSON: Isn't that wonderful for you?

MARIA: Oh, yes, it's wonderful. To think of it---I thought my coin was lost, and now I've found it.

PABLO: (*THROWING UP HIS HANDS*) Women!

CUE CARD FOR PABLO

MARIA: (*SEATED AT TABLE*) There! Soon we will be able to buy our new home, and there won't be all these dirty corners and this leaky roof. Let me count them again! (*POURS OUT COINS: SOME FALL*) Not so fast Careful! You don't want to run away from me, do you? Now: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9---oh, no! It can't be---where is it? Where's the tenth coin? (*SHOUTS*) Pablo! Quick! Quick! I've lost a coin. Hurry!

PABLO: (*ENTERING SLOWLY AFTER A PAUSE, VERY SLEEPY*) What is it, Maria? What are you doing up at his hour? It isn't even light yet.

MARIA: I've lost one of our coins. We have to find it! We have to!

PABLO: (*BECOMING ANGRY*) How could you be so careless?

MARIA: Stop scolding me and look for it!

PABLO: I never should have let you keep the coins---

MARIA: (*LOUD AND ANGRY*) You are too lazy to do anything!

PABLO: (*SHOUTS*) Lazy! At least I don't throw away our money.

(*ENTER NEIGHBORS, EXCITED BY THE SOUND OF A QUARREL*)

JACKSON: Whatever is the matter with you people?

BARTON: You're waking up the whole street. What is it?

MARIA: It's nothing. Please go away and leave us alone.

PABLO: (*SHOUTS*) Nothing? You lose a tenth of our savings and call it nothing?

JACKSON: Savings! You mean you've lost some money?

MARIA: Yes, but I'll find it. Pablo, hand me that broom! (*MARIA AND THE NEIGHBORS ON THE FLOOR AROUND THE TABLE, BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER. PABLO WATCHES FROM*)

BARTON: Try under the rug!

MARIA: I've looked there. Oh, I wish you'd leave me alone!

JACKSON: We're only trying to help you, Maria.

MARIA: (*SHE HAS USED THE BROOM TO FIND THE COIN UNDER A CHAIR*) There! Thank God I've found it!

PABLO: That's a blessing! In future, don't be so---

MARIA: Stop blaming me, Pablo, and put the coffee on. We're all going to celebrate.

PABLO: Celebrate what? I don't see---

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BARTON: Thank you, Maria.

JACKSON: Isn't that wonderful for you?

MARIA: Oh, yes, it's wonderful. To think of it---I thought my coin was lost, and now I've found it.

PABLO: (*THROWING UP HIS HANDS*) Women!

CUE CARD FOR JACKSON

MARIA: (*SEATED AT TABLE*) There! Soon we will be able to buy our new home, and there won't be all these dirty corners and this leaky roof. Let me count them again! (*POURS OUT COINS: SOME FALL*) Not so fast Careful! You don't want to run away from me, do you? Now: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9---oh, no! It can't be---where is it? Where's the tenth coin? (*SHOUTS*) Pablo! Quick! Quick! I've lost a coin. Hurry!

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PABLO: (*BECOMING ANGRY*) How could you be so careless?

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PABLO: I never should have let you keep the coins---

MARIA: (*LOUD AND ANGRY*) You are too lazy to do anything!

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