

**THREE PARABLES**

by

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Milton,  
Cambridge

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**Summary:** Three parables Jesus never told, but which illustrate God’s dealings with us. I have left in the bits of personal testimony so you can see how we used the three parables, but you will probably want to replace these with your own experiences.

**Bible Reference:** Psalm 50:8-11, Hebrews 12: 5-8

**Characters:** Michael and Kathy (two presenters), Betty (a rich aunt), Barney (a wannabe surgeon) and Vic (a personal trainer)

**Props:** Giant Bar Of Chocolate, Scalextric Ferrari, Picture Of Buckingham Palace to be displayed on video projector (or similar), garden sheers, hedge trimmer, certificate (example appended).

**Setting:** A church service

### SCENE 1. PARABLE OF THE RICH AUNT

MICHAEL: We’ve just sung “The Earth Is the Lords and Everything in it.” We know that everything in the world belongs to God, and God can do what he wants with it. Now God is for us, so he might give some of this untold wealth to us. Perhaps we think that being a Christian is like having a kindly rich Uncle or Aunt.

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We’re going to do the Parable of The Rich Aunt now to see if this is what God is like. I need a volunteer.

### A VOLUNTEER IS SELECTED

MICHAEL: Now is there a rich aunt in the building?

### BETTY COMES OUT

MICHAEL: Great. Once upon a time a child had a very rich aunt who loved him very much. The child was very poor so whenever he saw his aunt he was hopeful that the aunt would give him something. He was too in awe of his aunt to ask for something for himself. One day the aunt asked him:

AUNT: What would you like best of all for me to give you?

VOLOUNTEER 1: Some sweets please.

AUNT: Well here's a little bar of chocolate.

THE AUNT PRODUCES A GIANT BAR OF CHOCOLATE  
FROM HER BAG AND GIVES IT TO THE CHILD.

AUNT: And what about a car? You'd like a car wouldn't you, so you could drive your friends about?

THE AUNT PRODUCES A SCALEXTRIC FERRARI FROM  
THE BAG AND GIVES IT TO THE CHILD

AUNT: The full-size one is parked outside. And what about somewhere to live? I'm sure we can do better than that pokey little house you live in now. You could do with somewhere with a bit of space – like this place (INDICATES THE SCREEN)

A PICTURE OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE COMES UP ON  
THE SCREEN

AUNT: It's yours. Or do you think it's too small?

MICHAEL: Hang on. What's happening here? Is this how God really behaves? (NO) What is happening to the child? (THEY ARE BEING SPOILT) So why doesn't God behave like this? (HE DOESN'T WANT TO SPOIL US). God is not really like a rich aunt.

: When I was young, my family didn't have much money. To be honest we were pretty poor. Now my Sunday school teacher had

said something along the lines of, “God will give you everything you ask for.” So I did what any enterprising seven year old would have done and prayed: “Lord, God please give me a million pounds.”

: Did a cheque for one million pounds turn up the next day? No, it definitely didn’t. You see I prayed: “Lord, give me a million pounds.” But God in his infinite wisdom heard my prayer slightly differently. The prayer he answered was:

KATHY: Lord, help me to grow in wisdom and maturity, so that you could give me a million pounds and I wouldn’t be spoilt and so I would be able to use the money for your glory and for the benefit of your people.

MICHAEL: Did you get that. It’s worth repeating. I prayed, “Lord give me a million pounds.” But what God heard was:

KATHY: Lord, help me to grow in wisdom and maturity, so that you could give me a million pounds and I wouldn’t be spoilt and so I would be able to use the money for your glory and for the benefit of your people.

MICHAEL: And I can tell you, God has been answering that second prayer over the last forty years, and he is still working on it.

## SCENE 2. THE PARABLE OF THE UNQUALIFIED SURGEON

MICHAEL: Something our culture makes us very bad at is waiting for things. Sometimes we treat God the same way. We pray: “Give me patience and give it to me now.”

: There are many things in life which take a lot of working at and cannot be given just like that. Fortunately God is with us for the long haul – he’s patient and works with us over many years. Now I need another volunteer.

A VOLUNTEER IS SELECTED

: Just lie here and keep as still as you can.

THE VOLOUNTEER LIES ON A TABLE AT THE FRONT OF THE STAGE

MICHAEL: Now if Barney would come out, we’re going to do the Parable of the Unqualified Surgeon.

BARNEY COMES OUT

MICHAEL: Now Barney. I understand that you’ve always wanted to be a surgeon.

BARNEY: That’s right.

MICHAEL: But you don’t fancy the idea of the seven years training you need to qualify.

BARNEY: No. Seven years at medical school seems to me to be a bit of waste of time. I reckon I’d be a good surgeon without all that training.

MICHAEL: Well today is your lucky day Barney. I can officially tell you that you are now a fully qualified medical practitioner – and here’s the certificate to prove it.

MICHAEL HANDS BARNEY THE CERTIFICATE

BARNEY: Great I've always wanted one of these. So I'm a fully qualified surgeon now am I?

MICHAEL: That's right.

BARNEY: Oh good!

BARNEY GOES OVER TO THE VOLUNTEER

BARNEY: So which toe has the in growing nail? (PAUSE). Not that it matters because I'm going to have to cut the foot off at the ankle.  
(LOUDLY) Nurse!

KATHY: Here!

BARNEY: Sheers! (TO THE VICTIM) This won't hurt a bit. Just lie perfectly still. Hedge trimmer!

KATHY: Here!

BARNEY: Now where can I plug this in?

BARNEY SEARCHES FOR A POWER SOCKET

MICHAEL GOES TO THE VOLUNTEER

MICHAEL: I'd leave now whilst he's not looking.

BARNEY COMES BACK WITH WORKING HEDGE  
TRIMMER

BARNEY: Heart transplant anyone?

BARNEY LEAVES

MICHAEL: There is no substitute for experience. And learning by experience is never ever easy. It always costs. When anyone becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit gives that person one or more gifts, healing, teaching, prophecy, you know the list. But these gifts need working on, we need to gain experience with them. If we don't begin to use them, we never gain the experience to use the Holy Spirit's gifts wisely. So I ask you, what are you doing with the gifts God has given you?

SCENE 3. THE PARABLE OF THE PERSONAL TRAINER

MICHAEL: And now we come to our third parable. God is for us means that God wants the best for us. In fact God wants us to be the very best we can possibly be. This isn't really about being good, that's just a small part of it. Rather, God wants us to be as good as we possibly can at whatever it is we do.

:

Now I need a third volunteer, and I promise not to do any operations on them or anything like that. Preferably I want someone who is good at sport.

A VOLUNTEER IS SELECTED

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What sport are you good at?

PERSONAL TRAINER COMES OUT.

MICHAEL: Now if you were a professional sports(wo)man who would help you? (A COACH). A coach would tell you what sort of training to do. How about doing some press ups?

THE VOLUNTEER BEGINS PRESS-UPS

MICHAEL: Of course a coach also encourages you when you feel like giving up.

PERSONAL TRAINER: Come on you horrible little oik. You can go faster than that. One, two, one two. That's better keep it up. Can you feel the burn yet? What did you eat for breakfast?

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VOLOUNTEER 3: ?????

PERSONAL TRAINER: Well that's terrible. No more food for the rest of the day. Bottom down, get your back straight. Come on – give me another twenty.

MICHAEL: Of course you get the idea. Thank you you two.

THE PERSONAL TRAINER AND THE VOLUNTEER GO  
BACK TO THEIR SEATS



MICHAEL: God is for us, means that he is out to make us the best we can be. Sometimes he has to discipline us to bring this about, just like a coach disciplines the athletes he's working with. Again this can be difficult.

: My father was in the South African national swimming squad and he had a coach. In fact he confessed that he disliked his coach more than anyone he could think of because he was always on at him to do more training and eat properly and so forth. But all that nagging was for his benefit so he could ultimately swim faster.

: In the same way, when God disciplines us, it is because he loves us and wants the best for us. God's discipline is for our ultimate benefit. In fact the book of Hebrews says that we know God loves us because he disciplines us – What loving father doesn't discipline his children?

: Sadly, it is just as easy to ignore God's discipline as it is to ignore a sports coach and go off and get fat.

# **Do it yourself Surgeon Certificate**

**This is to certify that:**

**BARNEY**

**Has watched two episodes of Holby City and is therefore authorised to carry out any kind of operation with or without anaesthetic.**

**Signed:**

**Dee Ranged**

**(Chairman of the medical counsel resident at  
St. Cuthbert's Secure Facility, Biggleswade)**