



Parable Time

Better Than Gold

Wisdom • 2024

8 char ▾

19 min ▾

Fleeing from the consequences of his crime, Danny stumbles into an unfamiliar world where two opposing voices, Wisdom and Folly, offer him very different paths. As he meets others who have made their choices, Danny must decide for himself: will he take the easy road of deception or face the truth, no matter the cost? This gripping and thought-provoking story challenges us to consider the weight of our decisions and reminds us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of true wisdom.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Danny	(male)
Amy	(female)
Scoffer	(female)
Robert	(male)
Wisdom	(female)
Folly	(female)
Officer	(male)
Dispatch	(male voiceover)

Better Than Gold

(Glass shatters. Jewelry store alarm rings. Danny enters with a bag looking for a place to hide)

Danny:

[panting]

(Danny opens Wisdom's door and hides. Officer enters with a flashlight)

Officer:

[panting] Dispatch, this is Officer Johnson. I think I lost him.

Dispatch:

Copy that. Alerting nearby units.

Officer:

Hmph.

(Officer exits. Danny slowly opens the door and peaks out. Slowly closes the door until it shuts. Lights come on)

Danny:

Hmm?

(Amy enters)

Amy:

Don't...take another step.

Danny:

Who are you?

Amy:

Oh sorry, are you new?

(Danny turns and starts running)

Amy:

Wait! I'm Amy. Welcome to...here.

Danny:

Here?

Amy:

Yeah. Here.

Danny:

Look, I don't know if you're trying to be funny, but I don't have time for this.

Amy:

I...hate to break to you, but...you're stuck.

Danny:

Hu?

Amy:

Yep. Just like the rest of us.

Danny:

What are you talking about?

Amy:

The door. It's locked.

Danny:

How is that a problem?

Amy:

You'll need a key. Trust me.

Danny:

Right.

Amy:

But...lucky for you, I know where it is.

Danny:

Where?

Amy:

I'm on my way to get it.

Danny:

Perfect. I'll tag along.

Amy:

Uhh..sure, I guess.

(Amy and Danny start walking)

Danny:

How long have you been here?

Amy:

Uhh..month or two.

Danny:

A month or two?!

Amy:

Maybe three. I lost track.

Danny:

You're kidding.

Amy:

I'm not. I know where the key is, she just won't give it to me.

Danny:

She?

Amy:

Wisdom. Ugh. I can't stand her.

Danny:

Why?

Amy:

You'll see.

(Danny and Amy exit. Wisdom, Folly and Robert enter)

Wisdom:

Be honest, how much time do you spend on it?

Robert:

Well, sometimes from morning until night.

Folly:

But you have nothing else to do, remember?

Robert:

True.

Wisdom:

No. Even an ant gathers in the summer to prepare for the winter.

Robert:

But that's work, and I don't like work.

Folly:

Robert, you should be free to do what your heart desires.

Wisdom:

From morning until night. You call that free?

Folly:

[gasp] I have an idea!

Robert:

You do?

Folly:

What if...you enjoy it a little more, and when you've had enough, you'll quit.

Robert:

Ummm.

Wisdom:

Remember Robert, a person with no self-control is like a city without walls.

Robert:

I heard that we need to build bridges, not walls.

Wisdom:

Not when those bridges lead to ruin.

Robert:

Wisdom, I'll be back. Just give me time.

Wisdom:

That's if you find your way back.

Folly:

Of course he will. Here! Your key.

Robert:

Gee, thanks!

Folly:

Right this way.

(Folly goes to her door)

Robert:

Wait, I thought the door was that way?

Folly:

No no no. That's Wisdom's door.

Robert:

What's the difference?

Folly:

Behind my door, the whole world can be yours.

Robert:

The whole world?

Folly:

And everything in it.

Robert:

Wow.

(Robert unlocks the door)

Folly:

Please, enjoy yourself. And right before it's too late, you'll visit Wisdom.

Robert:

Oh boy!

Folly:

Am I a genius, or what? He he he.

(Robert and Folly exit. Amy and Danny enter)

Danny:

Was that her?

Amy:

No, that's Folly. Whatever you do, stay away from her.

Danny:

Where did she take him?

Amy:

No clue. Everyone that went there said they'd come back, but I have yet to see that happen.

Wisdom:

Amy, welcome back!

Amy:

Hello Wisdom.

Wisdom:

I see you brought a friend.

Amy:

I think you know what I'm here for.

Wisdom:

Danny. Nice to meet you.

Danny:

How did you know my name?

Wisdom:

[sigh] Amy. This is taking you much longer than I expected.

Amy:

I know, I know. I'm ready this time.

Wisdom:

I'll send her your way.

Wisdom:

[claps twice]

Danny:

Who is she sending?

Amy:

Just hold on.

(Scoffer enters)

Scoffer:

Hey Amy.

Amy:

Hi.

Scoffer:

I apologize, I guess.

Amy:

You ruined my reputation.

Scoffer:

Did I?

Amy:

Do you know what kind of rumors are spreading about me?

Scoffer:

Oh, sorry.

Amy:

Sorry? Really?

Scoffer:

I'll try to be better, but, no promises.

Amy:

GET OUT OF HERE, RIGHT NOW. Before I...urghh!

Wisdom:

Amy. That's enough.

(Scoffer exits)

Amy:

The nerve she has...ugh.

Wisdom:

I see progress, which is good. You didn't insult her this time. But, I think we still have some work to do.

Danny:

Hey, will she give you the key if you forgive...whoever that was?

Amy:

That's the deal.

Danny:

That's it? Why don't you just...you know...say the right words?

Amy:

[exhales] Wisdom, let's try it again.

Wisdom:

You're confident today. [claps]

(Scoffer enters)

Scoffer:

Hey Amy.

Amy:

Hey

Scoffer:

I apologize, I guess.

Amy:

You know what, I forgive you.

Scoffer:

You do?

Amy:

Of cooourse.

Scoffer:

Oh, thanks.

Amy:

Alright, well, I forgave you. Go on now.

Scoffer:

K.

(Scoffer exits)

Wisdom:

Amy...that was...a beautiful performance.

Amy:

What?

Wisdom:

Don't you know? Lying lips are a disgrace to the Lord.

Amy:

I can't stand this! I hope your little record sheet gets shredded to pieces.

(Amy hits key stand off table. Wisdom leans down, but Danny jumps to help)

Danny:

I'll get it.

Wisdom:

Why thank you Danny.

Danny:

Mhmm.

(Danny keeps a key to himself)

Wisdom:

Now, Amy, has anger ever helped you make a good decision?

Amy:

[silent]

Wisdom:

Remember. Wisdom makes one slow to anger. It is their honor to look past an offense.

Amy:

[silent]

Wisdom:

How about you cool off and try another day? Hmm?

Amy:

One more time.

Wisdom:

What was that?

Amy:

I want to do it one more time.

Wisdom:

Are you sure?

Amy:

Yes.

Wisdom:

I think it's better if you..

Amy:

Please.

Wisdom:

[disheartened] As you wish. [claps]

(Scoffer enters)

Scoffer:

Hey Amy.

Amy:

Hey.

Scoffer:

I apologize, I guess.

Amy:

[inhales/exhales] Look, what you did made me really upset. And it wasn't okay, but, I'm choosing to forgive you.

Scoffer:

Huh?

Amy:

I won't hold it against you.

Scoffer:

You're messing with me, right?

Amy:

No. It's time to move on. Let's put it behind us?

(Amy stretches out her hand)

Scoffer:

Oh.

(Scoffer shakes Amy's hand. Scoffer exits)

Wisdom:

Amy, you did it!

Amy:

I did?

Wisdom:

Yes. You did.

Amy:

Wait, does that mean..

Wisdom:

It does. You get your key!

Amy:

[gasp] Finally!

Wisdom:

But, there is one condition. You can only walk through the door alone.

Amy:

Of course. No problem.

Wisdom:

There you go.

Amy:

Thank you Wisdom.

Wisdom:

You earned it.

Amy:

Well, I guess I'll get going then. It was nice to meet you Danny.

Danny:

Hold up. I'll walk you to the door.

Wisdom:

You don't want your key?

Danny:

Don't worry, I'll be right back.

(Danny and Amy walk to the door. Wisdom exits)

Amy:

So Danny, how did you end up here?

Danny:

It's a long story.

Amy:

Hey, I won't judge.

Danny:

Well, probably 'cuz of this.

(Danny holds up a bag)

Amy:

What's that?

Danny:

A necklace I stole.

Amy:

Yikes.

(Amy unlocks the door)

Danny:

Yeaaah.

Amy:

Well, I'm sure you'll do great on your test.

Danny:

Mhmm

Amy:

See ya Danny!

Danny:

See ya.

(Amy exits)

Danny:

[giggle] Oh Amy, Amy. If only you knew.

(Danny pulls out the stolen key and unlocks the door)

Danny:

[mocking] Wisdom. Pff. I don't play by the rules.

(Danny closes the door and steps out)

Danny:

Hmm. That's weird.

(Folly's door opens. Robert enters)

Danny:

Why did it...interesting.

Robert:

[lifeless] Hey man.

Danny:

Hmm?

Robert:

Get in. It's awesome.

Danny:

Awesome? You're in chains.

Robert:

No I'm not.

Danny:

You literally have a chain on your neck.

Robert:

This? No. This is my freedom necklace.

Danny:

What?

Robert:

Ever since I put it on, I've never felt more free.

Danny:

Call it what you want, a chain is a chain.

Robert:

Stop calling my freedom necklace a chain.

Danny:

You need help.

Robert:

You'll love it here. No rules. No boundaries. This place is great.

(Folly enters)

Folly:

[angry] Robert! [gentle] Robbie. Please. Get back inside.

Robert:

Coming.

Danny:

Robert, I can help!

(Danny grabs the chains. Robert pulls it back and it falls)

Robert:

I don't need help.

(Robert exits)

Folly:

Tsk tsk tsk, Danny. Aren't you the one who needs help?

Danny:

What are you talking about?

Folly:

That little bag of yours, it's not weighing you down?

Danny:

What bag?

Folly:

I don't want to hear it. Just know, as soon as you walk through that door, the police will be waiting for you.

(Folly turns to leave and stops)

Folly:

But...there is another way.

Danny:

I'm listening.

Folly:

[whisper] You need to hide. Bury the evidence. Conceal what you've done.

Danny:

How?

(Folly pulls out a drape)

Folly:

An invisibility cloak.

Danny:

Those don't exist.

Folly:

Of course they do.

Danny:

And it works?

Folly:

Works like a charm.

Danny:

I don't know.

Folly:

Come on. You don't want to get caught, do you?

Danny:

No.

Folly:

Then take it.

Danny:

I don't want to end up like Robert.

Folly:

Oh Danny, Danny. Robert was a lost cause. You're better than him.

(Wisdom enters)

Wisdom:

Look who found another victim.

Folly:

It's only fair I gave him an option too.

Wisdom:

Danny, don't you know the rule?

Danny:

What rule?

Wisdom:

There is nothing hidden that will not be known and come to light.

Danny:

But people get away with things all the time.

Wisdom:

Not forever.

Folly:

Here's my key. You know where to find me.

Danny:

But..

Folly:

Take it! You'll thank me later.

(Folly places the key into Danny's hand. Folly exits)

Danny:

Wisdom, what will happen if I go through your door?

Wisdom:

You'll be arrested.

Danny:

What about Folly's door?

Wisdom:

You will be chained by fear.

Danny:

What do you mean?

Wisdom:

The fear of getting caught. Someone will always be looking for you.

Danny:

But I will be able to hide, right?

Wisdom:

Maybe. But not forever.

Danny:

[silence]

Wisdom:

Behind that door is fear. Behind my door is the fear of God. The choice is yours Danny.

(Wisdom hands Danny a key)

Danny:

The fear of God?

Wisdom:

Don't you know? The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

Danny:

Am I not wise?

Wisdom:

Would you be here if you were?

Danny:

[silence]

Wisdom:

The wise hate sin, Danny. The foolish enjoy it.

Danny:

Suppose...I were to change something, where would I start?

Wisdom:

Stay away from sin and your choices will be wise.

Danny:

Mhmm.

Wisdom:

Farewell Danny. I hope you'll make the right decision.

(Wisdom exits. Danny looks at the keys interchangeably)

Danny:

Hmm.

(Danny approaches Folly's door comparing chain and cloak. Drops cloak and hangs chain on door)

Danny:

Goodbye, Folly.

(Danny goes to Wisdom's door)

Danny:

How did she say it? The fear of God is to...the fear of God is to hate sin. It's the beginning of wisdom. [slowly, exhale] It's the beginning of wisdom.

(Danny unlocks the door and walks through. Lights off. Officer enters with a flashlight)

Danny:

Sir.

Officer:

Freeze!

Danny:

You're looking for me.

Officer:

Don't move. What do you know about the robbery?

Danny:

It was me. I stole the necklace.

Officer:

Where is it?

Danny:

It's in the bag.

(Danny hands Officer the bag)

Officer:

What's your name, kid?

Danny:

Danny.

Officer:

Mhm. Dispatch. Suspect has been found. I repeat. Suspect has been found.

Dispatch:

Copy that.

Officer:

Listen up Danny. I have good news and bad news.

Danny:

I think I already know what the bad news is.

Officer:

That's right. You're under arrest.

(Danny is arrested)

Danny:

And the good news?

Officer:

Your punishment should be much smaller since you turned yourself in.

Danny:

[silence]

Officer:

What? That's the way of life, young man. Actions carry consequences.

Danny:

[silence]

Officer:

I hope you're not regretting your decision to come forward. Are you?

Danny:

[mumbling] Better these chains than Robert's.

Officer:

Say that again.

Danny:

No. Nothing. I don't regret it.

Officer:

You made the right choice, kid. Let's go. It'll be ok.

(Officer and Danny exit)

Wisdom:

How much better to get wisdom than gold and good judgment than silver! Proverbs 16:16