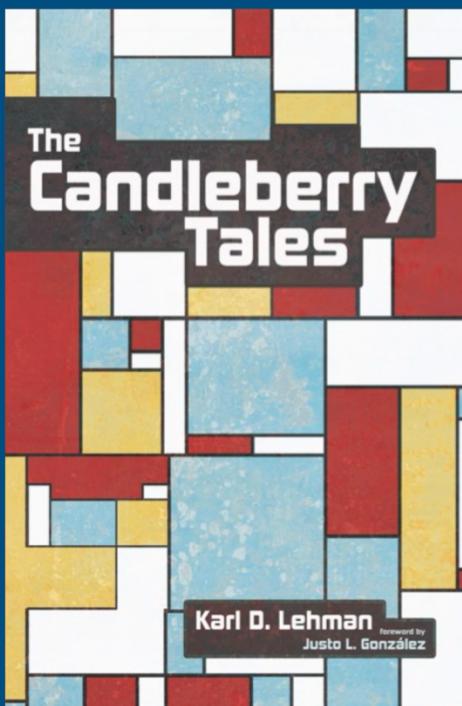


PARABLES FOR OUR TIME



TWELVE MINISTERS,
ONE JOURNEY, AND
TWELVE STORIES ALONG THE WAY



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The Candleberry Tales A Study Guide

1. Prologue

Who was Nelson Bunker Candleberry?

2. Rev. Harvey Stilton and His Truly Amazing Machine

Then Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. (John 6:32, NRSV)

- a. What was the central theme of the story?
- b. How did Rev. Harvey Stilton's mission and purpose change?
- c. What is the “true bread from heaven” and did Harvey find it?

3. The Church in the Sky

Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3 NRSV)

- a. What was the central theme of the story?
- b. Who was to blame for the “disappearance” of Middle Buckhead Methodist Church?
- c. Did the members of the church find “the kingdom of heaven?”

4. The Night of Aunt Sheila’s Visit

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Luke 12:34 NRSV)

- a. What was the central theme of the story?
- b. Have you ever had relatives or friends like Aunt Sheila?
- c. How did Aunt Sheila’s death lead to Lionel, Smyrna, and the children finding their treasure?

5. The Church Mouse Academy

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor? (Luke 10:29 NRSV)

- a. What is the central theme of the story?
- b. Who or what does Horace the mouse represent?
- c. Who in the Church Mouse Academy was the “neighbor?”

6. The Offbase Incident

If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. (John 8:31-32 NRSV)

- a. What is the central theme of the story?
- b. How did the community treat Button Gwinnett Benson?
- c. Were there any “disciples” in the story?

7. Middlelogue

What message comes from Thelma’s Pit Barbeque?

8. West of Eden

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they have it more abundantly. (John 10:10 KJV)

- a. What is the central theme of the story?
- b. How or why did the Quoters hide behind scripture?
- c. How did the Decklebaum family discover abundant life?

9. Don Key Hoagie of Skidaway

And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people. (Mark 1:17 NRSV)

- a. What is the central theme of the story?
- b. What motivated Don Key Hoagie to block the Savannah shipping lanes?
- c. How do you fish for people?

10. Take My Yolk Upon You

Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; and he said, “It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer;’ but you have made it a den of robbers.” (Luke 19:45-46 NRSV)

- a. What is the central theme of the story?
- b. What is the sin of simony and how does Mr. Simonie and the publisher reflect that?
- c. What role does Mary's mother play in the story?

11. APE

Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. (Luke 6:25 NRSV)

- a. What is the central theme of the story?
- b. How is spiritual hunger represented in the story?
- c. Is the mainline Church's future bleak and why or why not?

12. My Fair Preacher

He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

- a. What is the central theme of the story?
- b. Are seminaries important in the preparation and training of preachers?
- c. How do you love God with your mind?

13. Thus Spoke Sarah Brewster

The greatest among you shall be your servant. (Matthew 23:11 NRSV)

- a. What is the central theme of the story?
- b. Was Sarah wrong to go after Rev. Kyle and why?
- c. What does it mean to be a servant?

14. The Boys of Blakely

And no one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. (Mark 2:22 NRSV)

- a. What is the central theme of the story?
- b. How did Roberta deal with the barriers she faced?
- c. Was Roberta’s assignment an example of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak and why?

15. Epilogue

What do the buzzards on the top of the bus represent to you?