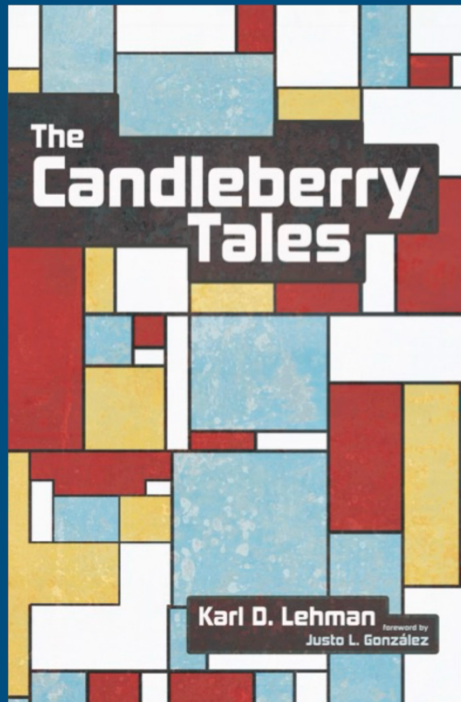


PARABLES FOR OUR TIME



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



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## The Candleberry Tales, Volume 1 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)

- What was the central theme of the story?
- How did Rev. Harvey Stilton's mission and purpose change?
- 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?