

Once Upon a Time...

the modern impact of ancient stories

PARABLE:

a short allegorical story designed to illustrate or teach some truth, religious principle, or moral lesson

Once Upon
a Time...

PARABLE:
an earthly story
with spiritual application

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a Time...

Why parables?

Once Upon
a Time...

PARABLES:

***Bounce off
calloused hearts***



***Won't penetrate
ears with fingers
stuck in them***



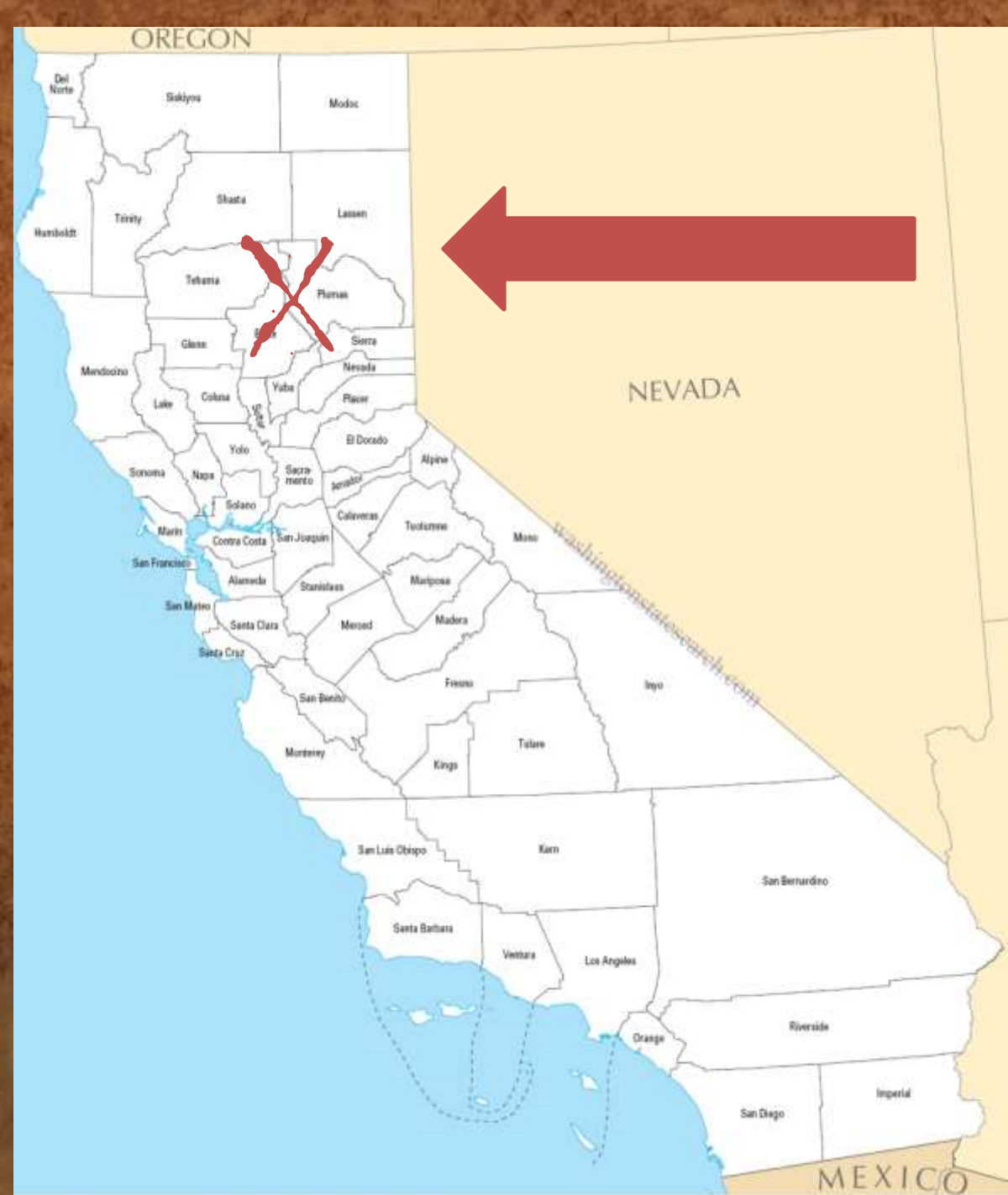
***Won't help eyes
that refuse to see
beyond the surface***



**I'M SMARTER
THAN
YOU'RE!**



***Are wasted on
those who think
they have it all
figured out***



...saw the path, and the birds
...the soil. It spread up quickly, his
...were scorched, and they collected be
...up and choked the plants. Still other
...or thirty times what was sown. Who
...one of them wanders away, will he not
...wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I
...guine that did not wander off. In the
...ittle ones should perish. Therefore, the
...th his servants. As he began the settl
...t to him. Since he was not able to pay
...at he had he sold to repay the debt. "At
...he begged, 'and I will pay back every
...and let him go.' But when that servant
...ndred silver coins. He grabbed him and
...his fellow servant fell to his knees and
...refused. Instead, he went off and had
...other servants saw what had happened,
...had happened. "Then the master called
...t of yours because you begged me to
...d on you?' In anger his master handed
...t he owed. The kingdom of heaven is

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds



the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the man in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Why didn't you beg your fellow-servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the torturers, until he should pay back all he owed. The kingdom of heaven is

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A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, but because the soil was shallow, it was scorched and withered when the sun came up. Some fell on thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear. If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. 'Then the master called in that wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Why haven't you begged me to cancel your fellow servant's debt just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. The kingdom of heaven is

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“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

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Matthew 13:44 (NIV)

What about Us...?

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