

# HAMPERED

*by Patrick Rainville Dorn*



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**CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS  
EDUCATIONAL SERIES**

**HAMPERED**

*Parable: The Two Sons*

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**SYNOPSIS:** Mom asks Nicole and Matt to do their laundry. Nicole agrees but doesn't do it, while Matt says he won't but ends up doing it anyway—and finds a gift card inside the dryer.

**BIBLE VERSE:** Matthew 21:28-32

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(2 females, 1 male)*

MOM (f) .....A woman who parents wisely. *(35 lines)*  
 MATT (m) .....A lazy teenager. *(36 lines)*  
 NICOLE (f).....His popular sister. *(20 lines)*

**DURATION:** 10 minutes.

**SETTING:** Home.

**TIME:** Present day.

## SET

A chair on one side of the stage indicates MATT'S bedroom. A chair on the other side of the stage signifies NICOLE'S room. There is a "hall" between them.

## PROPS

- Cordless video game controller (MATT)
- Cell phone (NICOLE)

*NOTE: All other props are mimed.*

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE**

Parables are earthly stories intended to reveal a heavenly meaning. They are by nature stories that people could relate to and which would inspire questions and discussion, thus providing the opportunity for revelation of the truth. We have brought these parables into present time where the listener can relate and once again ask questions, which will reveal the true meaning.

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**PARABLE:** <sup>28</sup>What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, “Son, go and work today in the vineyard.” <sup>29</sup>“I will not,” he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, “I will, sir,” but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did what his father wanted? “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him” (*Matthew 21:28-32*).



**AT START:** *MATT is seated on his chair, playing a video game. NICOLE is also seated on her chair, texting on her cell phone. MOM enters and mimes knocking on MATT’S door.*

**MOM:** (*Calls.*) Matt? (“Knocks” harder.) Matt!

**NICOLE:** (*Calls out. Continues texting while talking.*) He can’t hear you, Mom. He’s too busy rotting his brain with video games.

**MOM:** (*Crosses to NICOLE’S room.*) Still? He was playing last night when I went to bed.

**NICOLE:** I think he pulled an all-nighter. That’s all he does. Kill zombies. Now he’s becoming one. What did you need him for?

**MOM:** I’m going out for the day, and I want you both to do your own laundry.

**NICOLE:** What? Wash our own clothes?

**MOM:** Sure. You know how. I taught you when you were ten.

**NICOLE:** Oh. I thought you were just showing us for fun.

**MOM:** Sure. Cleaning up after my kids is tons of fun. Will you do it?

**NICOLE:** Do what?

**MOM:** Your laundry.

**NICOLE:** No problem. Consider it done.

**MOM:** Don’t dink around all day. I need you to be finished by the time I get back, or there will be consequences.

**NICOLE:** I’ll take care of it. You know me. I’m the good one.

**MOM:** Great. See you tonight, then.

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**NICOLE:** (*Resumes texting.*) Love ya.

**MOM:** I love you too, Nicole. (*Crosses to MATT'S room, "knocks."*)  
Matt?

**MATT:** (*Impatient.*) What?

**MOM:** I want to talk to you.

**MATT:** I'm busy!

**MOM:** I need you to do something.

**MATT:** (*Reacts to game.*) Oh, man! Look what you made me do.  
(*Gets up, mimes opening the door.*) You got me killed!

**MOM:** (*Soft.*) I gave you life.

**MATT:** What?

**MOM:** Never mind.

**MATT:** So what do you want that's so important?

**MOM:** I'm going out for the day. I want you to do your laundry. When  
I come back, maybe we'll do something fun.

**MATT:** Laundry? I don't even know how.

**MOM:** I taught you when you were ten.

**MATT:** I wasn't paying attention.

**MOM:** It's not that hard. The instructions are right on the machine.

**MATT:** Yaaaah, no. I don't think so.

**MOM:** You don't think so?

**MATT:** I don't feel like doing laundry today. You can do it when you  
get back.

**MOM:** I really want you to take care of it. (*Emphatically.*) Today.

**MATT:** Not gonna happen. I've got a grudge match.

**MOM:** Football? Basketball?

**MATT:** No way. (*Points.*) My game. You know, Zombie Apocalypse.

**MOM:** Your video game?

**MATT:** Right. So, have a great day, and I'll see you when I see you.

**MOM:** Matt...

*MATT mimes closing the door.*

**MOM:** There will be consequences. (*Waits a moment. Exits.*)

**MATT:** (*Sits, returns to video game.*) So. How many lives do I have  
left?

**NICOLE:** *(To audience.)* I don't see why she wants me to do laundry. I clean my own room, don't I? *(Gestures.)* Everything neat and tidy, just the way I like it. At least I'm not a slob like Matt. *(Mimes opening one side of closet.)* Besides, why do laundry when I have all these clothes? I don't like wearing the same ensemble twice in the same season. And I've still got, like, six weeks' worth of outfits. So I really don't need to do laundry after all. *(Holds up phone.)* I've got more important things to do, anyway. Stuff that matters. Ideas that will change the world! I'm organizing a protest against the homeless. They're dirty and scary, and they make me uncomfortable. So me and my friends are going to tell them to just, like, go home or something. *(Holds up phone.)* And I've got a lot of friends. Because I'm, like, super popular. *(Sits, texts.)*

**MATT:** *(Frustrated, sets down the controller. To audience.)* There's something wrong with me. Zombie Apocalypse just isn't fun anymore. It was at first, but after a while, it's just the same thing, over and over. There's no replay value. And Ultimate Kill Zone doesn't come out for another ten days. *(Looks around his room.)* There's got to be something I can do. *(Gets up, mimes kicking things out of his way.)* Maybe I'll go back to one of my old games. *(Mimes opening closet.)* Whew. That's pretty rank. When's the last time Mom did the laundry? What was it she always says? "If you don't bring your dirty clothes into the laundry room, they're not going to get washed." So I guess it's my fault there's so much piled up in here. *(Looks around room.)* And there. And there. Might as well do what she asked. But it looks like I'm going to have to clean my whole room. *(Thinks.)* Wait. I've got an idea. *(Mimes opening door, crosses to NICOLE'S room.)* Hey, Nicki.

**NICOLE:** Not now. I'm organizing a protest.

**MATT:** For or against?

**NICOLE:** None of your business. What do you want?

**MATT:** I was just thinking... if you're doing laundry, maybe I could throw my stuff in with yours.

**NICOLE:** Not a chance.

**MATT:** Why not?

**NICOLE:** Do I look like my brother's zookeeper?

**MATT:** I don't know. Kind of. You're all neat and organized and stuff.

**NICOLE:** Your clothes are gross. You wear the same thing for days at a time. I'm not mixing your filthy rags with my fashionable apparel.

**MATT:** But it all ends up just as clean.

**NICOLE:** I said no. Besides, I'm not doing laundry today.

**MATT:** But mom said—

**NICOLE:** I've got more important things to do. Now, go away. Shoot some zombies or something.

**MATT:** Maybe just one load?

**NICOLE:** Go away. And close my door. I don't even want you in the same house as me.

**MATT:** Wow. Fine. (*Mimes closing NICOLE'S door.*) Looks like I'm on my own. (*Returns to his room.*) It wouldn't be such a big job if I hadn't waited until it got so bad. (*Mimes picking up clothes and putting them in laundry basket.*) Oh, wow. I'd forgotten about these. Yeah, I think this needs to just get thrown out. (*Mimes picking up basket.*) I'll clean the rest of my room while the laundry cycles. And maybe open a window. Mom shouldn't have to do everything for me. I'm practically a grown-up. Yeah. I could get into this. (*Moves to hallway.*) Hey, Nicki! Guess what I'm doing? Laundry! Got anything stinky you want to throw in while I'm at it?

**NICOLE:** Drop dead, loser!

**MATT:** Okey-dokey. I'll take that as a "no." (*Exits.*)

**NICOLE:** Ugh! (*Texts for a moment. Impatient.*) I'm going out. (*Exits.*)

*Lights dim, if possible, to show passage of time. Or MATT can turn his back, freeze for a moment, and then turn around.*

**MATT:** (*Mimes folding laundry.*) Doop de doop de doo.

**MOM:** (*Enters.*) Kids! I'm back!

**MATT:** Hey, Mom.

**MOM:** Well, look at you. And your room. Wow. I'm impressed!

**MATT:** Yeah, no big deal. It beats shooting zombies.

**MOM:** Where's your sister?

**MATT:** Out.

**MOM:** Did she do her laundry first?

**MATT:** Nope. Said she had better things to do. I offered to do a load for her, but you know how Nicki can get. Hey, Mom?

**MOM:** Yes?

**MATT:** That was pretty sneaky of you.

**MOM:** What do you mean?

**MATT:** Putting a gift card to my favorite restaurant inside the dryer—  
where I'd only find it if I actually did my laundry.

**MOM:** Who, me?

**MATT:** How did you know I'd change my mind?

**MOM:** I didn't. But I hoped.

**MATT:** And Nicki has one too?

**MOM:** Under her hamper. But I guess she didn't do what I asked.

**MATT:** Guess not.

**MOM:** So, do you want to go out for dinner?

**MATT:** In a second. I'm almost done here. And I want to put on a  
clean shirt.

**MOM:** I'll leave a note for Nicole. *(Crosses to NICOLE'S room, mimes writing a note, and places it on the chair.)*

**MATT:** *(Mimes putting away clothes and changing his shirt. Looks at original shirt.)* Oh, man. And I just finished. *(Mimes putting dirty shirt in the hamper.)* Oh, well.

**MOM:** *(Crosses to hallway.)* Ready?

**MATT:** Ready! And I have my gift card.

**MOM:** Let's go.

*MOM and MATT exit.*

**NICOLE:** *(Enters.)* Guys, I'm home! *(Pause.)* Mom? *(Looks in MATT'S room.)* Matt? Wow! What happened here? *(Crosses to her room, picks up the note, reads.)* "Matt and I went out to dinner. Sorry you couldn't join us. Love, Mom. P.S. You're grounded." *(To audience.)* That is, like, totally not fair!

**THE END**

## Discussion Questions

You may use the following set of questions to lead a discussion following the performance if desired. Choose those most relevant to your audience, or develop your own queries. You may also encourage participants to ask questions.

### Overview Discussion Questions:

1. What is the basic storyline of the drama?
2. What is the basic storyline of the parable?
3. Compare the two stories. What are the differences and similarities?

### Reflection Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Mom didn't just go ahead and do Matt and Nicole's laundry for them? In the past, whenever they brought their hampers to the laundry room, she took care of it for them. What negative, hurtful, or unhealthy things in your life can you take care of yourself? What do you need to bring to the Father?
2. Matt eventually tires of his video games. Ultimately, the excitement doesn't last. How is sin like that? He finds joy in cleaning his room and doing his laundry. Why do you think that happens?
3. As soon as Matt finishes folding his laundry, he has another dirty shirt to put in the hamper. Does the work of purification and sanctification ever really end? If so, when?
4. What was the consequence of doing what Mom asked? What was the consequence of NOT doing what Mom asked? Were the consequences fair? God's will for us is to love him with our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. What are the consequences of doing the Father's will? Of *not* doing his will?
5. Discuss how the saying "Actions speak louder than words" applies here.
6. If you continually say you will do something and then don't, how will that make others feel?

### Personal Application Questions:

1. What is the parable saying to you?
2. How does this parable apply to your life?



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