

Parable of the Carpenter's Tools

Today, as you can see, I have brought some tools with me. [Bring a variety of tools to class to demonstrate.]

Each of these tools is made to do a special job.

(Show the class what each one does.)

These tools are all designed to do a task; they all serve a certain purpose. There are things that each one can do and there are also things that these tools cannot do.

For example (demonstrate each of these):

A tape measure is not made to cut through wood.

Sandpaper is not designed to drive a nail through wood.

A plane is not very good at measuring things.

A hammer is unable to drive a screw into wood.

A saw is not able to clamp two pieces of wood together.

Each tool is special and is made to do certain things, but there are many things each tool cannot do. It would be nice to have one tool that could do all these different things, but no one has invented such a tool.

Boys and girls, God made each of you to be very special and He made us all different. Wouldn't it be strange if all of us were exactly alike and we all looked the same, and we all had the same abilities and talents? But that's not the way it is.

You might have a brother who can run faster than you; but maybe you are a better artist than your brother. You can draw things really well. I knew a child who could play an instrument very well but could not sing very well. That's not a problem. Not everyone has a good singing voice. God made us all different. Some children do really well in math; other children struggle with math but maybe they do really well with reading and writing.

Think about your body:

The members of your body are all part of the same body but they all have different functions. Your nose smells but your ears are not able to smell. Your ears hear but your ears are not able to taste. Your eyes can see but your eyes are not able to throw a ball. Can you imagine two eyeballs having a catch with each other! Your hands can swing a baseball bat but your hands can't run to first base. Your hands need your feet to do that. Every part of your body has things it can do and things it cannot do, but God puts it all together and makes it work in a wonderful way.

God has made you very special and you are different from any other person on planet earth. You are special to Jesus and if you know the Lord as your Saviour, He wants to use you in a special way.

To help you understand this better, I want to share with you a parable.

The Parable of the Carpenter's Tools

A carpenter's tools were having a conference. Brother Hammer was presiding, but the others informed him that he'd have to leave because he was too noisy. "All right," he said, "I'll go, but Brother Plane must withdraw too. There's no depth to his work. It's always on the surface." Brother Plane responded, "Well, Brother Rule will also have to go too. He's constantly measuring people as if he were the only one who's right." Brother Rule then complained about Brother Sandpaper, saying, "He's rougher than he ought to be. He's very abrasive and he's always rubbing people the wrong way." Brother Sandpaper was annoyed by Brother Saw, claiming that he had a very sharp and cutting personality. Brother Saw leveled his criticism at Brother Level, saying that he always tends to blame others for being crooked and unbalanced. Brother Level had a major problem with Brother Hand Drill, accusing him of coming along and sticking his long penetrating nose into other people's business. And wouldn't you know it, Brother Hand Drill was really bothered by Brother Clamp because Brother Clamp always seemed so uptight and never seemed relaxed.



In the midst of this bitter discussion, the Carpenter of Nazareth walked in. He spoke sternly to all the tools, rebuked them, and told them to hold their peace. He shared with them that every one of them had a purpose and that they were uniquely made to fulfill that purpose. He told them that every one of them was important and had a special job to do. The Carpenter told them that He needed every one of them in order to do His work. He then went to His workbench



to make a pulpit from which to preach the gospel. He used the hammer, the plane, the rule, the sandpaper, the saw, the level, the hand drill and the clamp. Not one tool was untouched or unused. After the pulpit was finished, Brother Rule arose and said, "I see now that all of us are laborers together with God."

But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)