

**DROPS FROM THE DEEP
WELL, A SIMPLE
EXPLANATION OF
SOME OF THE PARABLES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649496679

Drops from the Deep Well, a Simple Explanation of Some of the Parables by W. Weldon
Champneys

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W. WELDON CHAMPNEYS

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THE PARABLES.

BY

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RECTOR OF WHITESHAPEL.

Seeleys :

FLEET STREET, AND HANOVER STREET,

HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON :

MDCCLII.

101. d. 132.



L. Seeley, Printer.

PREFACE.

Every Minister of Christ is a Steward.

The great Master of the "household of faith" has himself told us what the duty of the spiritual steward is—viz. "to give to *every one* of his fellow-servants his portion of meat in due season."

The great household, over which he has made his Ministers "overseers to feed the Church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood," contains not only full-grown persons but little children—not only "those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil," but those of "tender age."

Now while the "men" require "strong

meat" the "babes" must have "milk;" the "faithful Steward" will see that *both* have the food which they need.

However simple the sermon may be on the Sunday—however clear the medium through which the instruction is conveyed in the House of God; though the language may be, as it always ought to be, pure Bible-English, so that the poorest worshipper can understand the *words* through which, as light through a clear air, the thoughts are conveyed, yet it can scarcely be thought that the *children* attending Church get their "portion of meat" on Sunday. They may pick up some *crumbs*, but scarcely get a *meal*.

They however *want* their meat and they ought to have it. And if they *do not get* it on the Sunday they must get it in the week-day.

Acting on this conviction of their want and my duty, I have endeavoured for many years past (with the help of my fellow stewards) to give the children of our many

Schools *their sermons* each week, and to visit the schools, not to examine their school-work, but to feed them as the children of the household.

The same word of God, which furnishes the meat to the man, supplies the steward with milk for the babe—a portion of that word has therefore been the substance of all our weekly teachings.

Among other portions of scripture, they have been taken through some of the Parables. The plan I have pursued has been first to read a sentence, that the young children, who cannot read might all know it; (the elder ones having their Bibles, New Testaments or Prayer books open at the passage) then “to question it into them” and next “to question *it out of them* ;”—and so pass on to another part of the Parable, till the great, strong, broad lines of the story stood clear and plain before their mind, and the *moral* has been understood and remembered.

In this way the Parables in this little

work have been gone through in all the schools under my own immediate care, and, after a year's interval, have been found to be retained by the children.

This humble attempt to make some of the stories of the great Teacher, who so especially loved little children, plain to their capacities is but like letting the bucket fall on the very surface of that deep well of truth and wisdom, which the Parables present. It may be, however, that a *taste* of the sweet waters of this deep well may, through the Divine blessing, lead some to go for themselves and draw.

*Rectory, Whitechapel,
March 12, 1852.*

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