

MOVING DAY

by Tracy Wells



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

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CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS EDUCATIONAL SERIES

MOVING DAY

Parable: The Laborers in the Vineyard

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SYNOPSIS: Kelly's brother does all the heavy lifting, lugging furniture up nine flights of stairs. Then her new neighbors carry one light box, and her bro is upset when they partake of "his" pizza.

BIBLE VERSE: Matthew 20:1-15

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 female, 3 male)

KELLY (f) Woman who is moving. *(32 lines)*

GARY (m) Kelly's brother. *(36 lines)*

DENNIS (m) Gary's friend. *(28 lines)*

LAURA (f) New neighbor and wife of Jim. *(6 lines)*

JIM (m) New neighbor and husband of Laura.
(7 lines)

DURATION: 10 minutes

SETTING: Interior of Kelly's new apartment.

TIME: Modern day.

SET

The set could be representational with only a table and two chairs at center stage, or it could be more elaborate, with a backdrop depicting the interior of an apartment or a kitchen. Optional extra boxes or furniture could be scattered about to indicate an apartment whose occupant is just moving in. There should be one box on table filled with kitchen items, including plates.

LIGHTING/SOUND

No special lighting effects required. Sound effect of doorbell is needed.

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COSTUMES

Modern day, casual attire.

PROPS

- ☐ Two large boxes that appear to be heavy—one is marked “Books” and the other is marked “Pillows”
- ☐ Book (to go in pillow box)
- ☐ Easy chair or another piece of furniture that looks heavy
- ☐ Two medium-sized boxes—one for Kelly to carry and one filled with kitchen items, including five plates
- ☐ Another small, light box marked “Fragile”
- ☐ Three pizza boxes (at least one should have pizza inside, and one box needs at least one brownie)
- ☐ Cell phone

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: For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. ³About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴He told them, "You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." ⁵So they went. He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, "Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?" ⁷"Because no one has hired us," they answered. He said to them, "You also go and work in my vineyard." ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first." ⁹The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹²"These who were hired last worked only one hour," they said, "and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day." ¹³But he answered one of them, "I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?" ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?" (*Matthew 20:1-15*)



AT START: *KELLY enters walking backward slowly and motioning with her arms for DENNIS and GARY, who are Off-stage.*

KELLY: Just a little bit farther, guys. You're almost there! You're doing great.

DENNIS and GARY enter, carrying a chair or another large piece of furniture. They continue to hold the chair.

GARY: (*Out of breath.*) I just have to ask—why did you have to rent an apartment on the ninth floor?

DENNIS: (*Out of breath.*) Seriously! And why does there have to be nine flights of stairs?

GARY: (*Incredulously.*) Because she lives on the ninth floor.

DENNIS: (*Sheepishly.*) Oh, right.

KELLY: I know it's a lot of stairs. And I really do appreciate you helping me move, Dennis.

DENNIS: No problem.

GARY: Hey! What about me?

KELLY: You're my brother, Gary. You have to help. (*Turns to start unpacking box on table.*)

DENNIS: You did say there was gonna be pizza when we're all done, right, Kelly?

KELLY: Of course! It's the least I could do in appreciation for you guys helping me lug this heavy stuff.

GARY: No kidding. It really is the least you could do.

KELLY: Hey! You agreed to payment in pizza this morning, before we even got started.

DENNIS: You said you'd get two large pizzas, right?

KELLY: That's right, Dennis. Besides, pizza is delicious!

DENNIS: (*Dreamily.*) Pizza is awesome.

GARY: Yeah, but it's still just pizza. Couldn't you sweeten the deal a little?

KELLY: Hey! Remember, I'm a brand-new college graduate just starting out. (*Crossing to GARY and patting him on the back.*) But don't worry, Gary. I'll pay my helpers whatever is right. (*Crosses back to box on table and resumes unpacking.*)

DENNIS: Um... Kelly?

KELLY: Yes, Dennis?

DENNIS: This chair is starting to get a little heavy.

GARY: (*Sarcastically.*) A little heavy? We carried it up eight flights of stairs—

DENNIS: (*Interrupting.*) Nine. You said it was nine.

GARY: That's right. Nine flights of stairs. And we've been holding it here for about five minutes now while we discuss pizza.

DENNIS: (*Dreamily.*) Pizza is awesome.

GARY: *(Looks at DENNIS, exasperated, then turns to KELLY.)* Can you just tell us where you want this thing?

KELLY: Sure. *(Crosses her arms and puts a finger to her mouth, thoughtfully, then points.)* How about over there?

GARY and DENNIS carry chair to where KELLY pointed.

DENNIS: Here?

KELLY: Hmm. Maybe not. *(Turns to look at opposite side of room thoughtfully, then points.)* How about over there?

GARY and DENNIS carry chair to where KELLY pointed.

GARY: Is this where you want it?

KELLY: You know what? On second thought, I think it looked better back over there. *(Points to spot she originally pointed at.)*

GARY: You have got to be kidding me!

GARY and DENNIS carry chair to where KELLY pointed and set it down.

KELLY: Sorry, big brother. I just want to make sure we get it right. *(Crosses to GARY and throws her arms around him in a hug.)* But I really do appreciate all of your help.

GARY: *(Hugs her back.)* That's what big brothers are for.

KELLY: *(Jumps back in disgust.)* Ew! You're all sweaty!

GARY: *(Throwing his arms up in exasperation.)* Nine flights of stairs!

KELLY: I'm going to run back down to the truck and see how much we have left.

GARY: We'll just take a break here while we wait for you.

DENNIS: Sounds good to me! *(Lies down on chair.)*

KELLY: *(Crosses her arms and puts a finger to her mouth, thoughtfully, then points to where the chair was before.)* Come to think of it, the chair looked much better over there. Thanks, guys!

KELLY exits hurriedly, as GARY shakes his head at her, then lifts up his end of the chair, dumping DENNIS out of it.

DENNIS: Hey! Can't you see I was resting?

GARY: Get up and earn that pizza you're so excited about.

DENNIS: Pizza is awesome! (*Stands up and picks up his end of the chair and carries it with GARY to where KELLY pointed and puts it down. They sit.*)

GARY: I still can't believe she expects us to do all this work for pizza.

DENNIS: Kelly said she'd pay us whatever is right. Maybe she'll sweeten the deal after all.

GARY: Maybe.

DENNIS: (*Looking at GARY, excitedly.*) So when you said she should sweeten the deal, were you talking about brownies? Because brownies are really awesome.

GARY: Remind me again why we are friends?

DENNIS: In kindergarten you saw me eating paste and told me that might not be the best idea.

GARY: That's right—it explains a lot.

DENNIS: And then you shared your banana with me.

GARY: That was nice of me.

DENNIS: That's just the kind of guy you are, Gary—always willing to help your friends and family.

GARY: I guess so.

DENNIS: You helped me back in kindergarten with the paste, and now you're helping your sister. You're a good guy, Gary.

GARY: Thanks, Dennis.

DENNIS: You would've been an even better friend back in kindergarten if you had shared a brownie instead of a banana. Bananas are good, but brownies are awesome!

GARY shakes his head exasperatedly as KELLY enters carrying a box.

KELLY: I just met a couple of my new neighbors, and they offered to help finish bringing up the boxes.

GARY: Sounds great. How much more is there to move?

KELLY: Not too much. There are still a couple of really heavy boxes down there that I couldn't lift.

GARY: Dennis and I will go down and get them. It won't be so bad now that we have some help.

KELLY: Great. And since we're almost done, I'll order the pizza.

DENNIS: Come on, Gary! Let's hurry and get those boxes before the pizza gets here!

DENNIS runs Off-stage. GARY looks at KELLY and shakes his head.)

KELLY: *(Shrugging.)* Hey, he's your friend.

GARY: Yes, he is. *(Smiles and exits.)*

KELLY: *(Pulls out phone, punches in phone number, and puts it to her ear. After a pause, says lines as if she is talking to someone.)* Hi. I'd like to order a couple of pizzas. *(Pauses for answer.)* Twenty Matthew Street, apartment 115. *(Pauses for answer.)* Can I get two large pizzas? One with just cheese and one with pepperoni? *(Pauses for answer.)* No, that will be it. *(Pauses for answer, then remembers.)* Wait! Do you guys still make those pizza-shaped brownie things? *(Pauses for answer.)* Great! I'll take one of those too. How long will it be? *(Pauses for answer.)* Perfect. I'll see you in a little bit, then. Good-bye. *(Ends call, puts phone down, and unpacks as GARY enters, struggling under the weight of a large box marked "Books.")*

GARY: *(Out of breath.)* What have you got in here?

KELLY: *(Looking at side of box.)* I'm pretty sure it's filled with books.

DENNIS enters with the box marked "Pillows," struggling and gasping.

DENNIS: I made it! *(Collapses on top of box.)*

GARY: That one says it has pillows in it. It could not have been that heavy! *(Crosses to box and opens it, holding up a book)* This is not a pillow.

KELLY: Oops! Must have mislabeled that box.

DENNIS: How many books do you have?

GARY: More than you do. Maybe you should borrow one from her sometime.

GARY hands DENNIS book, who thumbs through it at first, then puts it under his head like a pillow.

KELLY: Did you meet my new neighbors while you were down there?

GARY: Laura and Jim? Yeah, they were just heading over to the truck when Dennis and I started up the stairs. I'm not sure how much was left in the moving truck for them to grab, though. You might not have needed to ask them for help.

KELLY: Oh, I didn't ask—they offered, and I was willing to take any help I could get. Plus, it'll be nice to get to know the new neighbors.

LAURA and JIM enter, each holding one side of a small box marked "Fragile."

LAURA: *(Calling out as they enter.)* Hello? Anyone home?

JIM: We come bearing boxes.

GARY: *(Aside to DENNIS.)* It looks more like one box to me.

KELLY: *(Crossing to LAURA and JIM.)* Thank you so much! It's so nice to meet such kind and helpful neighbors.

LAURA: Where do you want us to put this?

KELLY: *(Crosses her arms and puts a finger to her mouth, thoughtfully.)* Hmm... I don't know. Let me take a look.

GARY: *(Crossing to LAURA and JIM.)* Why don't I take that from you? Kelly can be very indecisive, and she will have you running all over the apartment with that box until your arms give out.

JIM: OK. Here you go. Careful, it's— *(GARY takes box from him before he can finish.)*

GARY: This box isn't heavy! It's as light as a feather!

JIM: I wasn't going to say it was heavy. I was going to let you know that it's fragile. *(Points to word "Fragile" on box.)*

DENNIS: But it took both of you to carry it up!

LAURA: We just wanted to make sure nothing happened to it.

JIM: The box is marked "Fragile" after all.

LAURA: *(Chuckling.)* And I can be such a klutz sometimes.

JIM: *(Putting his arm around LAURA and chuckling.)* She sure can.

LAURA: Besides, it looked like all of the heavy furniture and boxes were already brought up.

GARY: Yeah—by us! *(Sound of doorbell ringing is heard.)*

KELLY: That will be the pizza guy. Who's hungry?



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