

L³

by Patrick Rainville Dorn



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**CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS
EDUCATIONAL SERIES**

L³

Parable: The Leaven

By Patrick Rainville Dorn

L³

Parable: Casting of the Net into the Sea

By Patrick Rainville Dorn

SYNOPSIS: Which talk show guest is more successful: Rich Lucre, shamelessly hawking his book *Sharing Is for Losers*, or an unassuming military mom who accidentally creates an Internet sensation out of love for her daughter?

BIBLE VERSE: Matthew 13:33

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 females, 1 male)

GABBY PANDER (f).....Talk show host. *(31 lines)*

RICH LUCRE (m)Shameless self-promoter. *(22 lines)*

KAREN SAUERTEIG (f).....Technologically-challenged mom. *(22 lines)*

DURATION: Ten minutes.

SETTING: TV studio set for “Gabby’s Gabfest” talk show.

TIME: Present day.

SET

The talk show set needs a sofa (or three chairs in a line) at Stage Right, a guest chair at center, and Gabby’s desk or table with chair at Stage Left. Feel free to dress up the set with a “Gabby’s Gabfest” sign or other items as desired. .

COSTUMES

GABBY and RICH wear loud outfits. KAREN dresses simply.

PROPS

- ☐ Flashy poster card photo of RICH posing with his “toys.”

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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: ³³He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough” (*Matthew 13:33*).



AT START: *RICH sits at Center Stage. GABBY sits behind the desk. They are chatting during a commercial break.*

RICH: Ratings for you, exposure for me. It's a win-win. Am I right, or am I right?

GABBY: Yeah, I'm going to need to think about it.

RICH: Look—I know you get a lot of pitches from the guests on your show, but I'm the real deal, I promise. Trust me.

GABBY: In this business, it's hard to trust anybody.

RICH pouts.

GABBY: (*To audience.*) And we're back. Welcome again to Gabby's Gabfest, where we shamelessly promote anything that seems interesting or amusing to distract ourselves from our empty, meaningless lives.

RICH: Wait—what?

GABBY: (*Laughs.*) Just kidding. (*To audience, holding up RICH'S poster card.*) We've been talking with Rich Lucre, author of the newest hit on the bestseller list, Sharing Is for Losers: How to Take What You Want and Keep It All for Yourself.

RICH: That's right, Gabby. And may I say, it's been a pleasure coming here to talk about my book.

GABBY: The feeling is almost mutual. So, Rich. Don't you think your book promotes... oh, I don't know... selfishness?

RICH: Not at all. If I get what I want and you get what you want, it's a win-win. Am I right, or am I right?

GABBY: But you've got so much already. Four houses, a yacht, a fleet of cars... and three ex-wives.

RICH: That only proves the validity of my book. And just to show that people who have it all can afford to be generous... *(Turns to audience.)* Anyone who buys ten copies of my book will receive, absolutely free, a bookmark signed by yours truly, bestselling author Rich Lucre.

GABBY: Why would anyone want ten copies of your book?

RICH: I don't know. The point is, I want people to buy ten copies of my book. Give them away. What do I care?

GABBY: Oh, I see. And spread your great advice around to the less fortunate?

RICH: Sure. Right. That sounds good.

GABBY: Well, good luck... *(Holds up poster card.)* Rich Lucre, author of Sharing Is for Losers: How to Take What You Want and Keep It All for Yourself. Our next guest is Mrs. Karen Sauerteig, the unlikely inspiration behind the L³ *(Pronounced L cubed.)* phenomenon that is taking the Internet by storm. *(Turns and notices RICH is still seated in the guest chair at center.)* You need to move.

RICH: But I want to sit here. I like it here.

GABBY: That's the seat for the person I'm interviewing, and you've already had your five minutes.

RICH: I took this seat, and I want to keep it.

GABBY: Too bad. Move to the sofa, loser.

GABBY and RICH stare at each other for a long moment.

RICH: *(Looks at sofa.)* I've decided that I want to sit over there. *(Gets up and moves, trying to regain his dignity.)*

GABBY: *(To audience.)* Ladies and gentlemen, Karen Sauerteig.

KAREN enters, looks at audience, smiles, and sits on the sofa next to RICH.

KAREN: *(To RICH.)* Hello.

GABBY: *(Leads KAREN to the guest chair at center.)* Please, sit over here.

KAREN: Oh, excuse me. *(Refers to RICH.)* That man looked so dejected there all by himself.

KAREN sits on guest chair and waves to RICH. RICH scowls and crosses his arms over his chest.

GABBY: *(Sits behind desk.)* So did I get that pronunciation right? Sauerteig?

KAREN: Yes, Miss Pander. It's German for "leaven." But please, call me Karen.

GABBY: Thank you, Karen. And you can call me Gabby.

KAREN: Is that short for Gabrielle?

GABBY: No, I'm just Gabby.

RICH: *(Interrupts.)* Leaven? Like yeast? The microscopic fungus that makes dough rise?

KAREN: Yes, that's right. Not many people know that.

RICH: Hey, I'm a writer. I'm good with words. In fact, I've got this new book out—

GABBY: Rich, this is my show, and I'm talking with someone else right now. So be a good little fungus and keep quiet.

RICH sulks.

GABBY: Karen, tell me about L³.

KAREN: It's really quite silly—and a little embarrassing. But I don't mind. You see, my daughter is in the military, serving overseas.

GABBY: *(Playing to the audience.)* Your baby girl, risking her life to serve the people of this great nation. You must be so proud.

KAREN: Mostly I just miss her. But yes, I'm proud, too. Anyway, we were texting back and forth. She was deploying to a new location and couldn't tell me where. She was scared but trying to act brave. Of course, a mother can see right through that.

GABBY: It must be hard for a daughter to keep secrets from her mother.

KAREN: It's called operational security. Anyway, I wanted to send her lots of love, so I typed LOL at the bottom of my text. You know how the military loves abbreviations.

GABBY: LOL?

KAREN: I thought it meant "lots of love."

RICH: That's not what LOL means.

KAREN: I know that now, but I didn't know it then. Anyway, she texted right back, with a bunch of laughing emojis. *(To RICH.)* Those are the little face pictures you can add to the words. *(To GABBY.)* She shared my text with her whole unit, and everyone got the giggles. Suddenly, none of them were scared anymore. *(Pause.)* It turns out LOL means "laugh out loud."

RICH: Yeah. Pretty much everybody in the world already knows that.

KAREN: After that, it became a kind of joke. No matter how bad things got over there, she signed her texts LOL. And soon, so did the rest of the people in her unit. It was a way of blowing off pressure. Then it caught on with other soldiers on the base and their families.

GABBY: How inspiring! Laughter chases away fear. Even the fear of death.

KAREN: Well actually, it's love that does that. Lots of love. But the two are related.

GABBY: So how did LOL become LLL?

KAREN: Oh, silly me. I was going too fast, and instead of typing LOL, I accidentally sent my daughter a text that said LLL. You see, the O is just above the L on that teeny tiny keyboard. And for some reason, spell check didn't fix it.

RICH: And your daughter got a text ending with LLL?

KAREN: Right. She wrote back asking what LLL stood for. I didn't want to tell her it was a mistake, so I closed my eyes and thought of my daughter and what I wanted most for her, so far away from home.

GABBY: And that was...

KAREN: Live. Laugh. Love.

GABBY: Live. Laugh. Love. LLL.

KAREN: That's right.

RICH: I can't believe it. The hottest thing on the Internet since that stupid singing corgi, and it's all because of a typo.

KAREN: *(Stands, walks toward audience.)* I mean, what more could we want for our children but that they live? Really live to become who they were meant to be. To have lives filled with joy and laughter. And to know what it's like to love and be loved. There's so much we want to teach our children, but it all boils down to just three letters... LLL. *(Goes back to guest chair.)* Oh, excuse me. I get so carried away sometimes.

GABBY: Live. Laugh. Love. You really hit on something, Karen.

KAREN: I must have. Because for some reason, it caught on even more than LOL had. It spread and grew, and took on a life of its own.

GABBY: How did LLL become L³?

KAREN: Oh, you know the military and their abbreviations. The base commander, Colonel Mustardseed, wanted to make it even smaller.

RICH: Must be some kind of micromanager. *(Looks around.)* What? You don't think that's funny? Well, I do, and that's what counts.

KAREN: Cubed is some kind of mathematical symbol. It means Live times Laugh times Love. So instead of adding Live, Laugh, and Love together, the results multiply. And that seems to be how it's been going ever since this crazy thing took off. Millions of people are doing it now.

RICH: So the fungus lady came up with something that went viral. Big deal.

GABBY looks at RICH, picks up his poster card, then tears it in half.

RICH: Aaagh!

GABBY: *(To KAREN.)* Live. Laugh. Love. How can my audience get involved in this L³ movement?

KAREN: Oh, it's as easy as pie. Just type LLL or L³--that's a capital L and that teeny tiny three floating up next to it—in your texts and emails, or however you send messages these days. Then, if someone asks about it, encourage them to Live, Laugh, and Love.

GABBY: That's all there is to it? It doesn't cost anything?

KAREN: Oh my goodness, no. Life is a gift, not a transaction. You can't put a price on laughter. And love is something you can share freely, without expecting anything back. It just grows and grows and grows.

GABBY: *(Stands.)* Karen, this could be my favorite interview of the season. Thank you for coming and sharing your remarkable insights. *(Stands. To audience.)* And to all of you, especially those far from home... L³. *(Makes a hand sign forming the letter L, then holds up three fingers.)*

RICH: You know what? That gives me a great idea for my next racket. I'm gonna call it M³.

GABBY: Dare I ask what that stands for?

RICH: What else? Money, money, money.

THE END



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by Patrick Dorn.

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