

# Parable Time

## Oh to Be Him

Themes • Gratitude

 11 min

 5 char

In a charming village of old, two friends engage in their work with unwavering enthusiasm. However, their harmonious lives take an unexpected turn when some visitors arrive at the village. Baker and Cobbler quickly forget the joy they once found in their unique craft, and decide to swap trades. Despite their best intentions, the results are far from satisfactory, and they quickly come to realize that the grass is not always greener on the other side. This heartwarming tale, filled with songs and giggles, reminds us that true happiness is found in embracing and nurturing our unique, God-given talents.

*Oh to Be Him*

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Requests for information should be directed to:

Parable Time

[info@parabletime.com](mailto:info@parabletime.com)

[www.parabletime.com](http://www.parabletime.com)

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

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|                  |        |                             |
|------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| <b>NARRATOR</b>  | (any)  |                             |
| <b>BAKER</b>     | (male) | Jolly village worker        |
| <b>COBBLER</b>   | (male) | Jolly village worker        |
| <b>VISITOR 1</b> | (male) | Praises the cobbler's shoes |
| <b>VISITOR 2</b> | (male) | Praises the baker's bread   |

## TIME AND SETTING

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Old time village with two shops

**NARRATOR:**

A long time ago, in a village of old, there lived two friends who loved their work.

*(BAKER and COBBLER enter)*

**BAKER:**

[inhales/exhales] What a fine day to bake bread.

**COBBLER:**

[inhales/exhales] What a fine day to make shoes.

**BAKER:**

Good day Cobbler.

**COBBLER:**

Good morning Baker.

**BAKER:**

Isn't today just wonderful?

**COBBLER:**

Just splendid I tell you.

**BAKER:**

Your shoes look fine as always.

**COBBLER:**

And your bread, [inhales/exhales] smells sweeter than ever.

**NARRATOR:**

Every day was just the same. The baker baked bread and the cobbler made shoes.

*(VISITOR 2 enters and tosses Baker a coin. Break into song)*

**BAKER:**

Oh to be a baker, it really can be fun.  
I find it quite upsetting, when all my work is done.

*(Visitor 2 receives a loaf and exits. VISITOR 1 enters at  
Cobbler's stand)*

**COBBLER:**

Oh to be a cobbler, it's really not a job.  
How can I complain when I do the work I love?

*(Visitor 1 receives a shoe and exits)*

**BAKER:**

Flour. Water. Flour. Dough.  
Making bread is all I know.

**COBBLER:**

Measure. Snip. Measure. Shoe.  
There's no work I'd rather do.

**BAKER:**

Yeast. Salt. Yeast. Dough.  
Mix it up and off we go.

**COBBLER:**

Needle. Thread. Needle. Shoe.  
Hold it steady, stick it through.

**BAKER:**

Oh to be a baker, it really can be fun.  
I find it quite upsetting when all my work is done.

**COBBLER:**

Oh to be a cobbler, it's really not a job.  
How can I complain when I do the work I love?

**BAKER:**

Fold. Knead. Fold. Dough.  
Work it steady. Work it slow.

**COBBLER:**

Hammer. Nail. Hammer. Shoe.  
This is what I love to do.

**BAKER:**

Squeeze. Toss. Squeeze. Dough.  
Let it sit and watch it grow.

**COBBLER:**

Polish. Shine. Polish. Shoe.  
Making everything look new.

**BAKER AND COBBLER:**

Oh to be a worker, it really can be fun.  
We find it quite upsetting when all our work is done.

Oh to be a worker, it's really not a job.  
How can we complain when we do the work we love?

**NARRATOR:**

All was well and life seemed perfect, that is, until one day, when two visitors stopped by the village.

*(Visitor 1 enters at Baker's stand. Visitor 2 enters at Cobbler's stand)*

**VISITOR 1:**

One loaf please.

**BAKER:**

Yes, of course. Coming right up.

**VISITOR 1:**

You know Baker, I can't help but say. That cobbler sure knows how to make a fine pair of shoes.

**BAKER:**

Oh I know, he's the best we have.

**VISITOR 1:**

His shoes are so soft, it's like walking on clouds.

**BAKER:**

Indeed they are.

**VISITOR 1:**

And so light. Light as a feather. I can hardly feel I have them on.

**BAKER:**

You won't find shoes like that anywhere else.

**VISITOR 1:**

No you won't.

**BAKER:**

Your bread.

**VISITOR 1:**

You know, if I didn't know any better, I would say that cobbler has it best.

**BAKER:**

He sure does have a way with shoes.

**VISITOR 1:**

Not just a way, a gift. Those hands of his, they're a gift from God himself.

**BAKER:**

Yes, yes.

**VISITOR 1:**

If only I had hands like his, the things I could do.

**BAKER:**

Enjoy your bread.

**VISITOR 1:**

Just wonderful, absolutely wonderful.

*(Visitor 1 exits)*

**COBBLER:**

Just a minute more and I'll have these all shined up for you.



**VISITOR 2:**

My, that baker sure knows how to make a fine loaf of bread.

**COBBLER:**

He sure does.

**VISITOR 2:**

This, this is not just bread, this is manna from heaven.

**COBBLER:**

[chuckles] I guess it is.

**VISITOR 2:**

So fluffy. So light. It just melts in your mouth.

**COBBLER:**

Alright, let's see how these fit. I left a little more room in the front for the toes, I sure hope you like them.

*(Cobbler putting shoes on for Visitor 2 as he looks at the bread and marvels)*

**VISITOR 2:**

Wonderful, absolutely wonderful.

**COBBLER:**

Good, good.

**VISITOR 2:**

I regret buying only one loaf.

**COBBLER:**

Sir, and the shoes? Do they fit?

**VISITOR 2:**

Oh, the shoes? Yes, they're fine.

**COBBLER:**

Will that be all?

**VISITOR 2:**

You know Cobbler, if I did say so myself, that baker has it best.

**COBBLER:**

He sure has a way with dough.

**VISITOR 2:**

Not just a way, it's a gift from God.

**BAKER:**

Enjoy your shoes.

**VISITOR 2:**

Delicious, absolutely delicious.

*(Visitor 2 exits)*

**NARRATOR:**

When the visitors left, the two friends would soon forget how much they loved their work. They thought that being the other was something much better.

**BAKER:**

Say Cobbler, I've been thinking.

**COBBLER:**

What's that?

**BAKER:**

Well, I've been a baker for many years now...

**COBBLER:**

Yes, and you're good at it. The best in town.

**BAKER:**

And you, you have been a cobbler for many years too.

**COBBLER:**

That's what I do.

**BAKER:**

And you're good at it. Really good. But I wonder, what if we made a little change?

**COBBLER:**

A change?

**BAKER:**

Yeah, what if we tried something new.

**COBBLER:**

Like what?

**BAKER:**

Well, what if I tried being a cobbler? And you could be the baker?

**COBBLER:**

Really?

**BAKER:**

Why not?

**COBBLER:**

I always did want to work the dough.

**BAKER:**

Oh you'll love it!

**COBBLER:**

The mixing and tossing, now that would be fun.

**BAKER:**

It's all here.

**COBBLER:**

And that sweet smell of a loaf in the oven, [inhales/exhales] it sure beats these same smelly shoes.

**BAKER:**

Well, what do you say?

**COBBLER:**

How could I say no?

**BAKER:**

Then it's settled. There you go.

*(Break into song)*

**COBBLER:**

I cannot wait to make a loaf of bread.  
It sure beats smelling feet and things I dread.

**BAKER:**

I cannot wait to make a pair of shoes.  
It sure beats mixing dough and flour too.

**COBBLER:**

A little bit of salt, a little bit of water.  
A little bit of yeast and a lot more flour.

**BAKER:**

A little tap here, a little tap there.  
A little on top and a lot more here.

**COBBLER:**

It's so much better mixing things instead.  
Making shoes is not as fun as bread.

**BAKER:**

It's so much better making things I choose.  
Making bread is not as fun as shoes.

**COBBLER:**

A little bit of salt, a little bit of water.  
A little bit of yeast and a lot more flour.

**BAKER:**

A little tap here, a little tap there.  
A little on top and a lot more here.

**COBBLER:**

There! A nice little loaf.

**BAKER:**

Well done cobbler. Well done.

**COBBLER:**

All that's left is to throw it in the oven.

**BAKER:**

I'm just about done here too. I think you'll absolutely love these.

**COBBLER:**

I will say Baker, you do make it look a lot easier than it is.

**BAKER:**

There! A lovely pair of shoes. Come Cobbler, give these a try.

**COBBLER:**

Well, well. Let's have a look.

**BAKER:**

What do you think?

**COBBLER:**

They're different.

**BAKER:**

Different can be good, right?

**COBBLER:**

Oh dear, they're uhh, they're snug.

**BAKER:**

Snug? In a good way?

**COBBLER:**

Well not quite. Baker, you and I are friends, right?

**BAKER:**

Right.

**COBBLER:**

I'll be honest with you, these shoes...they're uhh...they're...

**BAKER:**

Go on, say it.

**COBBLER:**

Well, these shoes are absolutely hideous.

**BAKER:**

That bad, huh?

**COBBLER:**

I'm afraid so. Sorry Baker.

**BAKER:**

[deep inhale] What is that smell?

*(Baker runs to the oven and takes out the bread)*

**BAKER:**

It's your bread Cobbler.

**COBBLER:**

How does it look?

**BAKER:**

It's uhh, unique.

**COBBLER:**

Go on, tear it apart.

**BAKER:**

Yes, mmm...mhmm. Okay.

*(Baker hits the bread on the table)*

**BAKER:**

Nope. Hard as a rock.

**COBBLER:**

Oh dear.

**BAKER:**

Sorry Cobbler, I guess it's not your thing.

**COBBLER:**

I'm afraid not.

**BAKER:**

But, look at the bright side. You're the best at making shoes.  
Even your bread looks like a shoe.

**COBBLER:**

[chuckles] And Baker, you're the best at making bread. These shoes look like two little loaves.



**BAKER:**

[chuckles] Well then, I guess we better stick to doing what we're good at.

**COBBLER:**

Agreed.

**NARRATOR:**

So from that day on, the two friends always remembered to be grateful for the gifts they each had. The baker went on baking and the cobbler made more shoes.

*(End scene)*

# "Oh to Be a Worker"

$\text{♩} = 125$   
Emaj Bmaj C#min

Oh to be a ba ker it re-ally can be fun I find it quite up-set-ting when

4 F#7 Bmaj Emaj Bmaj

all my work is done Oh to be a cob bler it's re-ally not a job

7 C#min F#7 Bmaj F#min Bmaj

How can I com-plain when - I do the work I love Flo-ur wa-ter flo-ur dough

10 Emaj Amaj D#dim G#maj

ma - king bread is all I know Mea - sure sni - p mea - sure shoe

12 C#7 F#min Bmaj Emaj Amaj

There's no work I'd ra - ther do Ye - ast sa - lt ye - ast dough mix it up and off we go

15 D#dim G#maj C#7

Nee - dle thr - ead nee - dle shoe. Hold it stea - dy stick it through

17 Emaj Bmaj C#min

Oh to be a ba ker it re-ally can be fun I find it quite up-set-ting when

20 F#7 Bmaj Emaj Bmaj

all my work is done Oh to be a cob bler it's re-ally not a job

2

23 C#min F#7 Bmaj F#min Bmaj

How can I com-plain when - I do the work I love Fo - ld kne-ad fo - ld dough

Detailed description: This block contains the first three measures of the song. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure 23 starts with a C#min chord and contains the lyrics 'How can I com-plain when - I'. Measure 24 has an F#7 chord and the lyrics 'do the work I love'. Measure 25 has Bmaj, F#min, and Bmaj chords and the lyrics 'Fo - ld kne-ad fo - ld dough'.

26 Emaj Amaj D#dim G#maj

work it ste - ady work it slow ha - mmer na - il ha - mmer shoe

Detailed description: This block contains measures 26 and 27. Measure 26 has Emaj and Amaj chords and the lyrics 'work it ste - ady work it slow'. Measure 27 has D#dim and G#maj chords and the lyrics 'ha - mmer na - il ha - mmer shoe'.

28 C#7 F#min Bmaj

This is what I love to do Sque - eze to - ss sque - eeze dough

Detailed description: This block contains measures 28 and 29. Measure 28 has a C#7 chord and the lyrics 'This is what I love to do'. Measure 29 has F#min and Bmaj chords and the lyrics 'Sque - eze to - ss sque - eeze dough'.

30 Emaj Amaj D#dim G#maj

Let it sit and watch it grow Po - lish shi - ne po - lish shoe.

Detailed description: This block contains measures 30 and 31. Measure 30 has Emaj and Amaj chords and the lyrics 'Let it sit and watch it grow'. Measure 31 has D#dim and G#maj chords and the lyrics 'Po - lish shi - ne po - lish shoe.'

32 C#7 Emaj Bmaj

Ma-king eve - ry-thing look new Oh to be a wor-ker it re-ally can be fun We

Detailed description: This block contains measures 32, 33, and 34. Measure 32 has a C#7 chord and the lyrics 'Ma-king eve - ry-thing look new'. Measure 33 has Emaj and Bmaj chords and the lyrics 'Oh to be a wor-ker it re-ally can be fun'. Measure 34 has a Bmaj chord and the lyrics 'We'.

35 C#min F#7 Bmaj Emaj

find it quite up - set-ting when all our work is done Oh to be a work-ker it's

Detailed description: This block contains measures 35, 36, and 37. Measure 35 has a C#min chord and the lyrics 'find it quite up - set-ting when'. Measure 36 has F#7 and Bmaj chords and the lyrics 'all our work is done'. Measure 37 has an Emaj chord and the lyrics 'Oh to be a work-ker it's'.

38 Bmaj C#min C#min Bmaj Emaj

re-ally not a job How can we com-plain when - we do the work we love

Detailed description: This block contains measures 38, 39, and 40. Measure 38 has a Bmaj chord and the lyrics 're-ally not a job'. Measure 39 has a C#min chord and the lyrics 'How can we com-plain when - we'. Measure 40 has C#min, Bmaj, and Emaj chords and the lyrics 'do the work we love'.

# "I Cannot Wait"

$\text{♩} = 115$

Emaj Bmaj Emaj

I can - not wait to make a loaf of bread It

4 F#min G#min Amaj Amaj Bmaj C#min

sure beats smell - ing feet and things I dread I can - not wait to make a pair of shoes It

8 F#min Bmaj Emaj E

sure beats mix - ing dough and flo - ur too A li - ttle bit of salt a lit - tle bit of wa - ter

11 B E

Lit - tle bit of yeast and a lot more flo - ur A li - ttle tap here a lit - tle tap there a

13 B E Bmaj Emaj

lit - tle on top and a lot more here It's so much be - tter mix - ing things In - stead

17 F#min G#min Amaj Amaj Bmaj C#min

Ma - king shoes is not as fun as bread It's so much bet - ter ma - king things I choose

21 F#min Bmaj Emaj E

ma - king bread is not as fun as shoes A li - ttle bit of salt a lit - tle bit of wa - ter

24 B E

Lit - tle bit of yeast and a lot more flo - ur A li - ttle tap here a lit - tle tap there a

26 B E

lit - tle on top and a lot more here