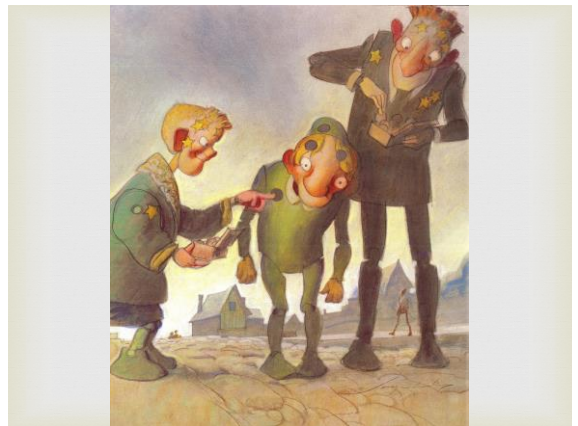
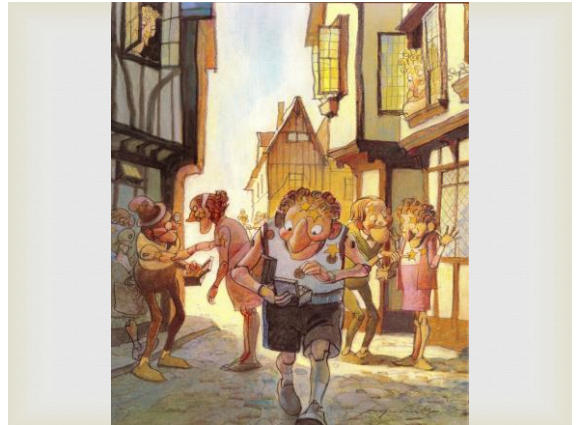
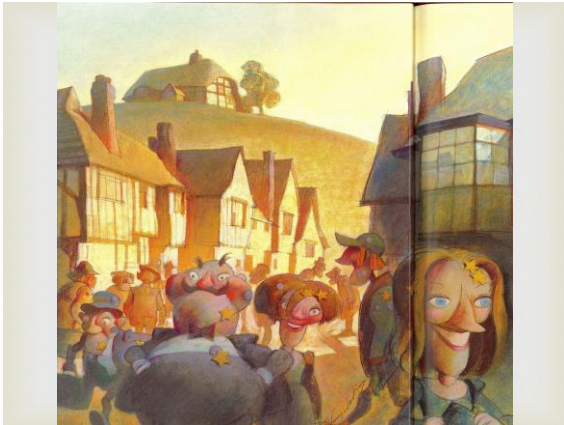
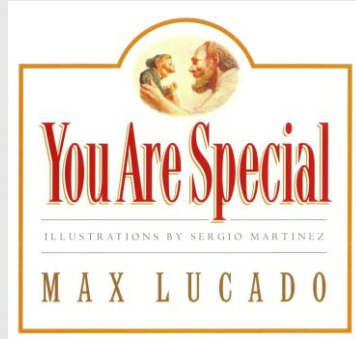
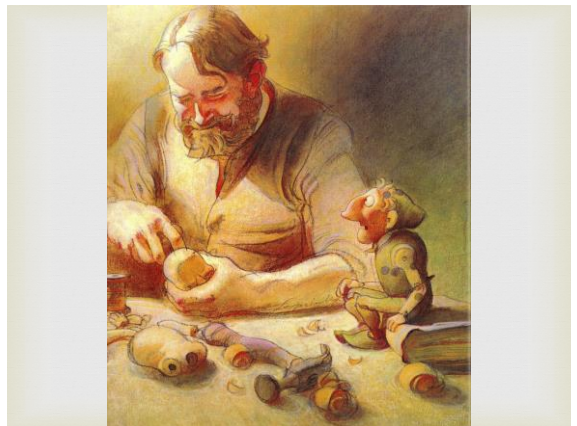
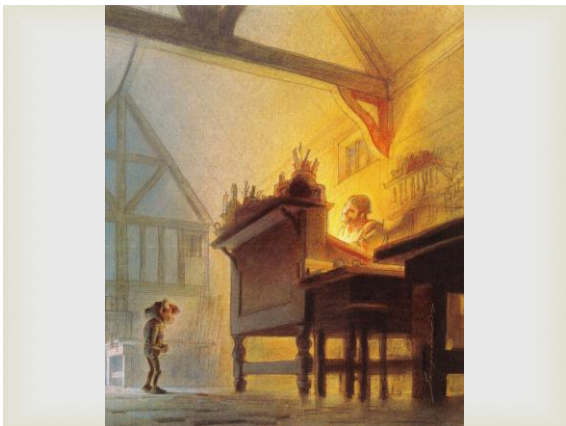
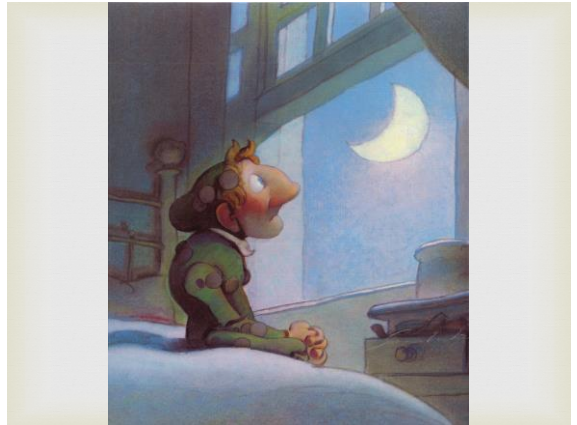
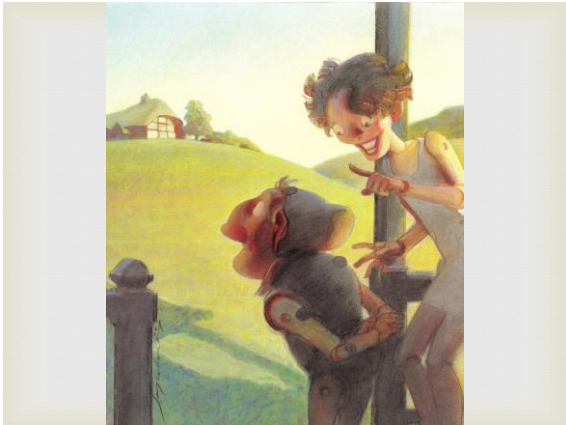
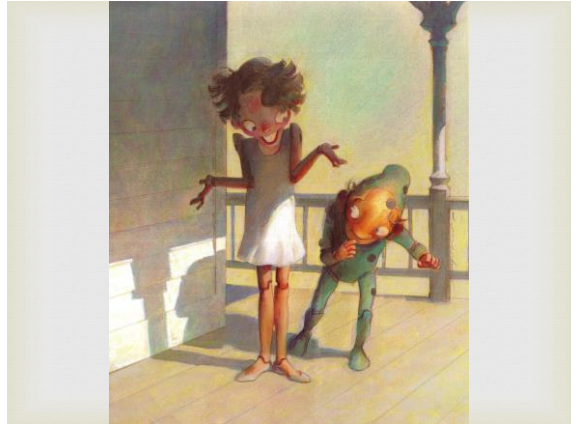
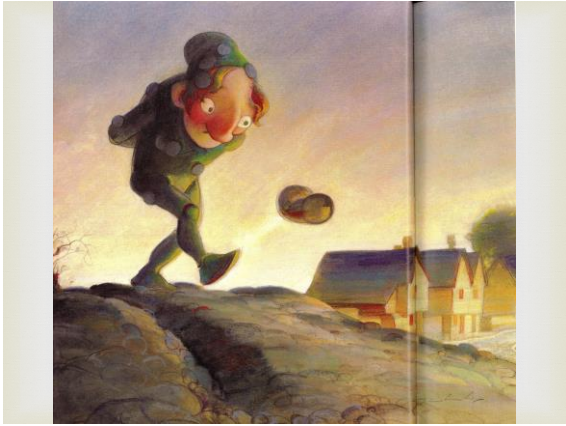
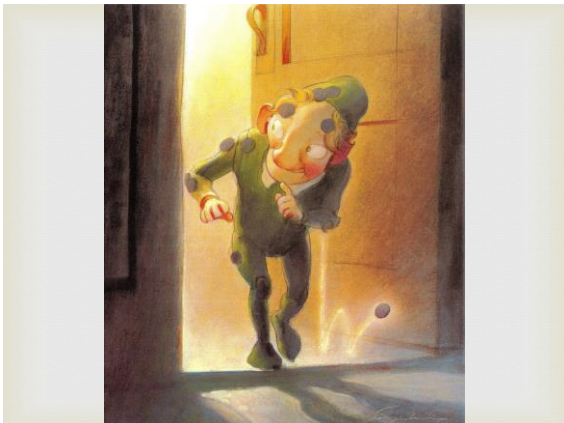
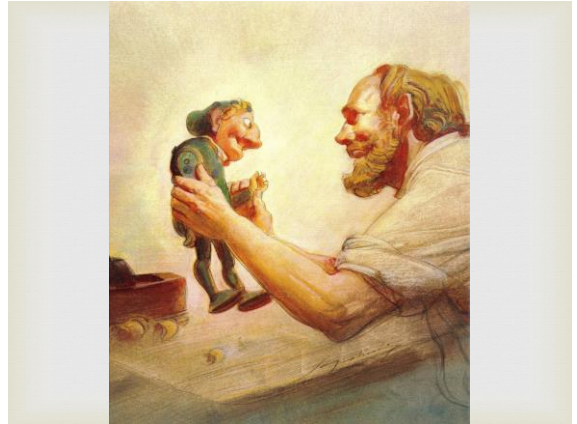


Grace for Our Journey
October 24, 2010

Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14







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Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14

Parable to Enlighten Parable

- Pharisee gives gold stars to himself and gray dots to the tax collector
- Tax collector is simply presenting himself to a merciful God his maker

The story of our lives

- How much do we play game all day? Aren't we handing out gold stars and gray dots in our minds?
 - Dressed well or poorly
 - Does good job or not
 - Attractive or unattractive
 - Owes us or we owe them
 - Friend or foe
- Even worse when we don't feel good about ourselves?

God doesn't play our games

- God is maker of all – friend or foe
- God sent Jesus to rescue us from these games
- For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (Rom. 5:6)
- But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Can we stop playing those games?

- Think of a situation in your life where you might let all the gray dots go away
- Situations for us all – “Race: The Power of an Illusion”
- Elections in 10 days:
 - Worse in a time of crisis
 - Politics locked in dualism of friend/foe
 - Who are we supposed to fear as our enemy?
 - Any candidates for the common good? For the least, last, lost, left out?

What does it take to stop?

- Weekly trip to altar to meet Eli our maker
- Daily trip in prayer:
 - “Remember, you are special because I made you. And I don't make mistakes.”
- Grace for *our* journey

