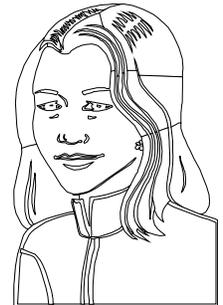


# X.F. How to Deal with Narrative

How do I understand stories?



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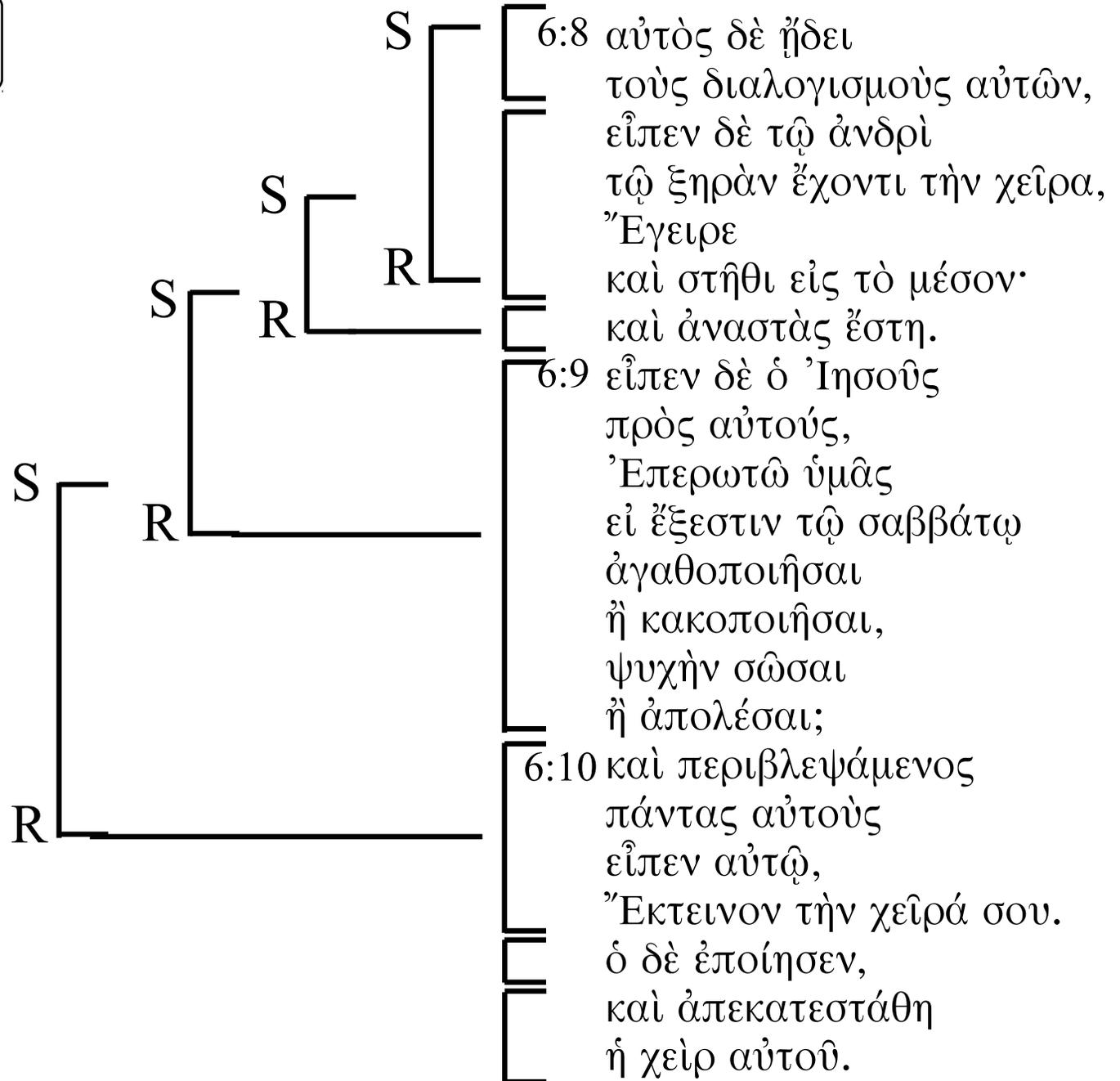
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# What Does Bracketing Analysis Do with Narrative?

# Analyzing Luke 6:6-11

brackets?



# Analyzing Luke 6:6-11

10b.3

brackets?

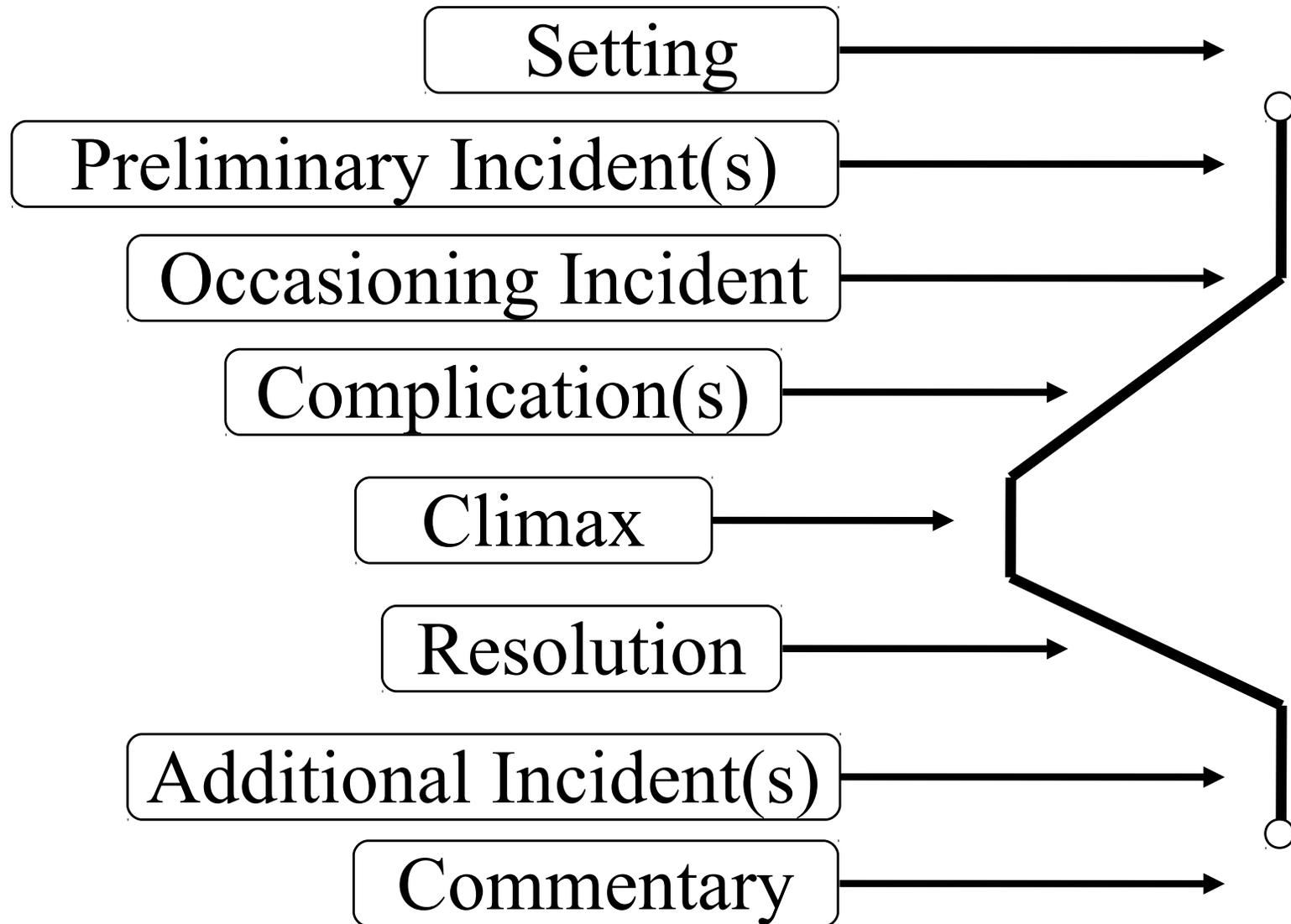
rise

TENSION

fall

- 6:8 αὐτὸς δὲ ἴδει  
τοὺς διαλογισμοὺς αὐτῶν,  
εἶπεν δὲ τῷ ἀνδρὶ  
τῷ ξηρὰν ἔχοντι τὴν χεῖρα,  
Ἔγειρε  
καὶ στήθι εἰς τὸ μέσον·  
καὶ ἀναστὰς ἕστη.
- 6:9 εἶπεν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς  
πρὸς αὐτούς,  
Ἐπερωτῶ ὑμᾶς  
εἰ ἔξεστιν τῷ σαββάτῳ  
ἀγαθοποιῆσαι  
ἢ κακοποιῆσαι,  
ψυχὴν σῶσαι  
ἢ ἀπολέσαι;
- 6:10 καὶ περιβλεψάμενος  
πάντας αὐτούς  
εἶπεν αὐτῷ,  
Ἐκτεινον τὴν χεῖρά σου.  
ὁ δὲ ἐποίησεν,  
καὶ ἀπεκατεστάθη  
ἡ χεὶρ αὐτοῦ.

# Main Points in Tension



Vern S. Poythress

The following categories are defined using slightly modified versions of the definitions in John Beekman.

**SETTING.** Setting is composed of statements about static facts, location, time, circumstances, or movement in location. Usually such information comes at the very beginning of a new episode.

**PRELIMINARY INCIDENTS.** Preliminary Incidents are events (not descriptions of static states of affairs) relevant to what follows, but before the problem or tension has been introduced into the episode.

**OCCASIONING INCIDENT.** The Occasioning Incident is the event which introduces notable conflict or tension. In the nature of the case, there is seldom more than one such incident.

**COMPLICATION.** Complication is an event increasing tension, making a solution (apparently) more difficult. There can be more than one paragraph devoted to complications of various kinds. (Unlike the Occasioning Incident, Complication can and often does occur more than once in a single episode.)

**CLIMAX.** Climax is the incident of maximum conflict or tension. It is where, in a melodrama, one would expect the music to play the loudest.

**RESOLUTION.** Resolution is the event or events which solve the problem, release the tension, and unravel the tangles—or at least they contribute toward the solution.

**ADDITIONAL INCIDENTS.** An Additional Incident is a further event that is a consequence of the climax or resolution, but is not a significant part of the climax or resolution itself.

**COMMENTARY.** A Commentary contains the narrator's comments on, evaluation of, or moral for the story. Unlike Additional Incidents, it does not contain events continuing the straight line of the narrative.

# More Narrative Labels

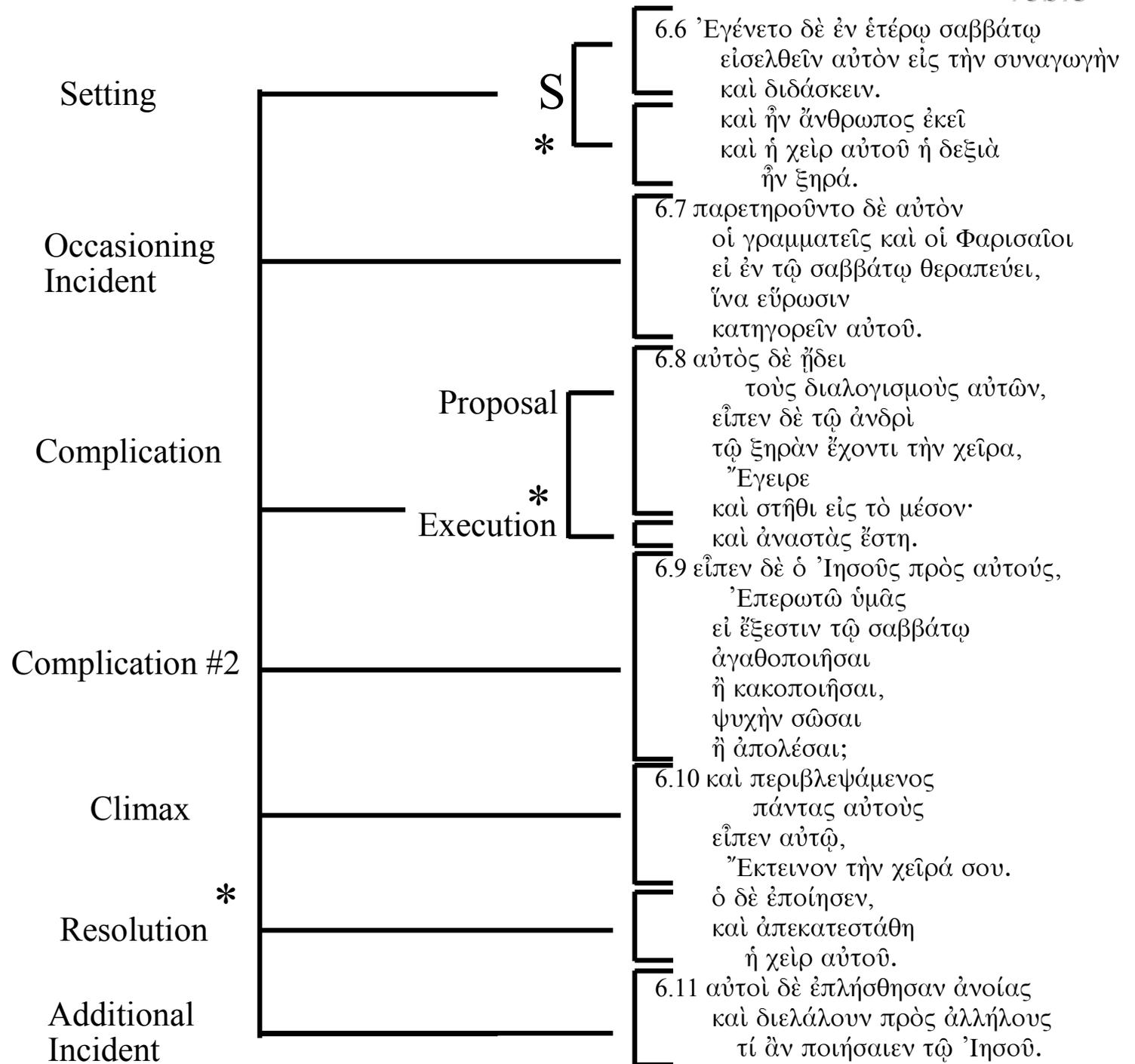
In addition to the above, we often find a second simple pattern, composed of the following two units.

**PROPOSAL.** A description of action commanded, planned, or suggested.

**EXECUTION.** The carrying out of action previously described in a Proposal.

# Doing Rhetorical (Flow) Analysis of Narrative

- 6.6 Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν ἑτέρῳ σαββάτῳ  
εἰσελθεῖν αὐτὸν εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν  
καὶ διδάσκειν.  
καὶ ἦν ἄνθρωπος ἐκεῖ  
καὶ ἡ χεὶρ αὐτοῦ ἡ δεξιὰ  
ἦν ξηρά.
- 6.7 παρετηροῦντο δὲ αὐτὸν  
οἱ γραμματεῖς καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι  
εἰ ἐν τῷ σαββάτῳ θεραπεύει,  
ἵνα εὕρωσιν  
κατηγορεῖν αὐτοῦ.
- 6.8 αὐτὸς δὲ ἤδει  
τοὺς διαλογισμοὺς αὐτῶν,  
εἶπεν δὲ τῷ ἀνδρὶ  
τῷ ξηρὰν ἔχοντι τὴν χεῖρα,  
Ἔγειρε  
καὶ στήθι εἰς τὸ μέσον·  
καὶ ἀναστὰς ἕστη.
- 6.9 εἶπεν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς πρὸς αὐτούς,  
Ἐπερωτῶ ὑμᾶς  
εἰ ἔξεστιν τῷ σαββάτῳ  
ἀγαθοποιῆσαι  
ἢ κακοποιῆσαι,  
ψυχὴν σῶσαι  
ἢ ἀπολέσαι;
- 6.10 καὶ περιβλεψάμενος  
πάντας αὐτούς  
εἶπεν αὐτῷ,  
Ἔκτεινον τὴν χεῖρά σου.  
ὁ δὲ ἐποίησεν,  
καὶ ἀπεκατεστάθη  
ἡ χεὶρ αὐτοῦ.
- 6.11 αὐτοὶ δὲ ἐπλήσθησαν ἀνοίας  
καὶ διελάλουν πρὸς ἀλλήλους  
τί ἂν ποιήσαιεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ.



# Steps in Analyzing Narrative

- Pick a single chunk.
  - Unit with narrative unity.
- Break up into individual events.
  - Propositions or small clusters of propositions.
- Unite into groups with single actor.
- Determine climax and resolution.
  - Label with tree branches.
- Work back to determine other key events.
  - Complete the tree.

Do It!

## Luke 7:11-17

11 Καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ ἔξῃς  
ἐπορεύθη εἰς πόλιν καλουμένην Ναΐν,  
καὶ συνεπορεύοντο αὐτῷ  
οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ ὄχλος πολὺς.

12 ὡς δὲ ἤγγισεν τῇ πύλῃ τῆς πόλεως,  
καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐξεκομίζετο  
τεθνηκῶς μονογενῆς υἱὸς τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ,  
καὶ αὐτὴ ἦν χήρα,  
καὶ ὄχλος τῆς πόλεως ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν αὐτῇ.

13 καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτήν ὁ κύριος  
ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτῇ  
καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ,  
Μὴ κλαῖε.

14 καὶ προσελθὼν  
ἤψατο τῆς σοροῦ,  
οἱ δὲ βαστάζοντες ἕστησαν,  
καὶ εἶπεν,  
Νεανίσκε, σοὶ λέγω, ἐγέρθητι.

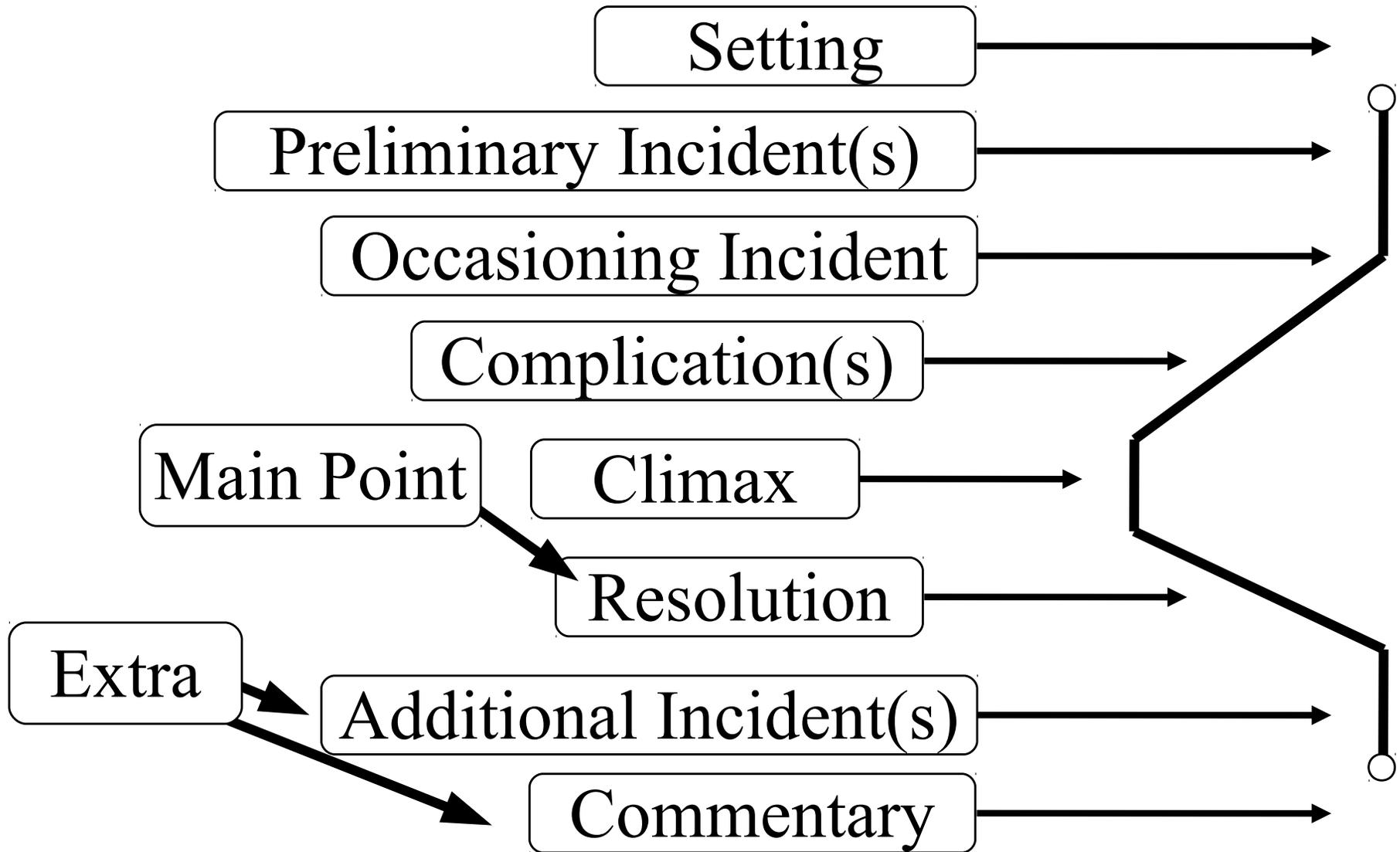
15 καὶ ἀνεκάθισεν ὁ νεκρὸς  
καὶ ἤρξατο λαλεῖν,  
καὶ ἔδωκεν αὐτὸν τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ.

16 ἔλαβεν δὲ φόβος πάντας,  
καὶ ἐδόξαζον τὸν θεὸν  
λέγοντες ὅτι  
Προφήτης μέγας ἠγέρθη ἐν ἡμῖν,  
καὶ ὅτι

Ἐπεσκέψατο ὁ θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ.

17 καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ὁ λόγος οὗτος  
ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ περὶ αὐτοῦ  
καὶ πάσῃ τῇ περιχώρῳ.

# What to Watch



# Unusual Forms

- Plots with missing pieces: Luke 13:6-9
- Matt 4:1-11
- Ask why?
- Plots with subplots: Matt 4:1-11
- Matt 9:18-26
- Tragic plots (antiredemptive): Gen 3

# Plot and Character

- Tension goes with plot.
- Watch character as well.
- Characters play various roles.
  - Maybe more than one role at different times.
  - Interact with people in other roles.
- Characters develop.
  - Maturing or degenerating.
  - Reader grows in perception of character.

# Redemptive Plots

- The heart of redemption lies in Christ
- Miniredemptions: redemptive plots
- Plots as types
  - Typology should include plot typology
  - as well as things, institutions, and events

# Antiredemptive Plots

- Curse is antiredemption
- Adam's fall is the pattern
- The curse on Christ (crucifixion)
- Hell
- Miniantiredemptive plots

# Are Plots Invented?

- History is not bare events
- Plot reflects God's design
- Human stories are selective
- Human stories may distort