

Most Certainly True
Matthew 25:14-30

Have you ever been wrong?

At our last Parish Planning meeting someone shared that Butch Rorabough had tested positive for COVID-19. I had been told that he had been out of state and, so, was self-quarantining just in case. I shared this information, and at least some present accepted it as the truth. It turns out that I was wrong. Butch did test positive, and was taking steps to not pass it on to others.

I was wrong, but the truth prevailed. No biggie. No one went to hell. ... This time.

There are other times when the stakes are much higher, and people can and do go to hell because the truth does not prevail.

The Catechism is a great tool. It explains in plain language the profound truths of Scripture. Two of these truths speak of God's generosity and love.

"I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

"He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.

He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life

"He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

"All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

"This is most certainly true."

This was not most certainly true for the servant who buried his talent. *Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid...* It wasn't true, but it is what this man believed, and so it was his truth. It explains both his actions and the judgment pronounced against him.

... I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

As the man believed, so he acted. As the man believed, so was he judged... It didn't have to be that way. And it wasn't for the other two servants.

The master was generous with all three servants. He didn't have to entrust anything to them. And yet he chose to make them stewards of great riches.

Google helped me find out that the average per capita income in Iowa is \$31,000 a year. A talent equaled what a common person would earn in 20 years. So, according to my calculator, the man who was entrusted with one talent was given \$620,000. Another servant was given twice that much. And another servant became the steward of 5 times that amount.

The master had great riches, and he richly blessed his servants. That is the true relationship between us and our heavenly Father. He has great riches, and He has richly blessed you.

Now you can groan and complain about what He has given you. You can snivel and whine that He has given more to other people. You can even believe that God had nothing to do with the things you call your own – that they are the result of your own hard work. And that will become your truth.

You will see God as hard and unfair, or you may dismiss Him entirely. And you will be judged accordingly. The sentence is the same for both: being cast out of the kingdom into utter darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

God isn't happy about it. It's not what He wants. But as we believe, so we are judged. What we see as the truth determines our way – in this life and the next.

And that's not a bad thing! For some it is, and it is a very bad thing. But not for all! There were two more servants who were made stewards of great riches who were gifted

with even more when the master returned! They got to hear, *Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.*

What we see as the truth determines our way – in this life and the next. Jesus said, *I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me* (John 14:6). If this is our truth, by it we are judged, and found not guilty!

Jesus went to the cross to take away the guilt of your sin. He died to pay its price. The shedding of His blood on the cross paid for all of your sin, including your complaints about someone else getting more than you. There is no sin the blood of Jesus does not cover.

The only sin that condemns is unbelief – rejecting Jesus as the way, and the truth, and the life.

Jesus died for your sin, rose in victory over death and Satan. And He will return to gather to Himself all who see Him as the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus has earned for you the forgiveness of all your sins. They will not condemn you. Rather, your generous and loving heavenly Father will add to the riches He has already given you. One day you will hear, *Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.*

“For all this it is [our] duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

“This is most certainly true.” Amen