

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

From The Deacon's Homily "True", with visual aids. Morning Prayer, July 27, 2025

In construction there is a word that signifies that a structure is perfectly aligned and free of any tilting, sloping, or misalignment. That word is "true". A structure is considered "true" when all its vertical lines (measured by our old friend the plum-line with bob) and horizontal lines (measured with a level) are aligned correctly, and all 90-degree angles, the corners (measured with a square) are accurate. Those of us homeowners can attest that our old homes and even new construction are not as "true" as we hoped or expected.



That's construction, and that too is life. "True" is an ideal.

- I wonder what the definition of "true" is in God's Kingdom?
- How does God define it?
- Can we go too far off from God's true?
- How and "can we" return to God's "true"?
- And I wonder, what does "true" mean for us as individuals, for this church and our relationship with God?
- What are the measurements of "true" for us to consider as we journey with Christ?

What will be St Paul's metrics to determine "true"? Metrics... like butts in the seats? A robust balance sheet? I think there are other, much more important, measures for us in this, our journey.

Since we were presented with that plumbline and bob by Father Jack a few weeks ago, many words and verses from our readings stick out. Here are a few:

- “Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy; Rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.” Psalm 82
- “lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.” Colossians 1:1-14
- "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself...Who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:25-37
- “As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6-15

To be “true” is to love God and neighbor. It is about our hearts, our hands, feet, our prayers in action and with strength and persistence to bear good fruit in this kingdom.

Images sometimes speak better than words to answer a question.

Look at what is true. Look at that yellow bag in the pew, it needs filling. Look at the prayer shawls on the altar rails waiting for our blessing, they are ready to comfort.



Look, see Blessed Mary Protectress of the Vulnerable clutching that precious baby amongst the chaos that is the world today. **Where are we in that picture?**



Look to Brother Francis who despite cultural prejudices and fears, got down off his high horse, not just to embrace but to kiss the “least of these”. Then Francis took up his cross to live a life in service to them. **Where do you see St Paul’s in that picture?**





Look at the communion table. See the hands of the Beatitudes. Recognize that to be Christian is to live the Beatitudes, as the hands, the feet, the heart of God. **Are we in that picture?**



Sister's and Brother's, maybe it's time to get off our horse. It's time to encounter Jesus with the poor in spirit, with those who mourn, with the meek, those who hunger, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted. It's time to join Jesus with the vulnerable. Or to join him with the least of these.

Some of us have already encountered him: wrapped in a prayer shawl. Or some have touched Jesus, filling or delivering the contents of that yellow bag.

Take to heart God's commissioning words to our brother Francis "Go, ... repair my house."

**It's time to rebuild, it's time to rediscover our "true".**

**Link to Kelly Latimore Icons** (About Kelly, and a short writeup on each of his icons, including the three above) <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/>