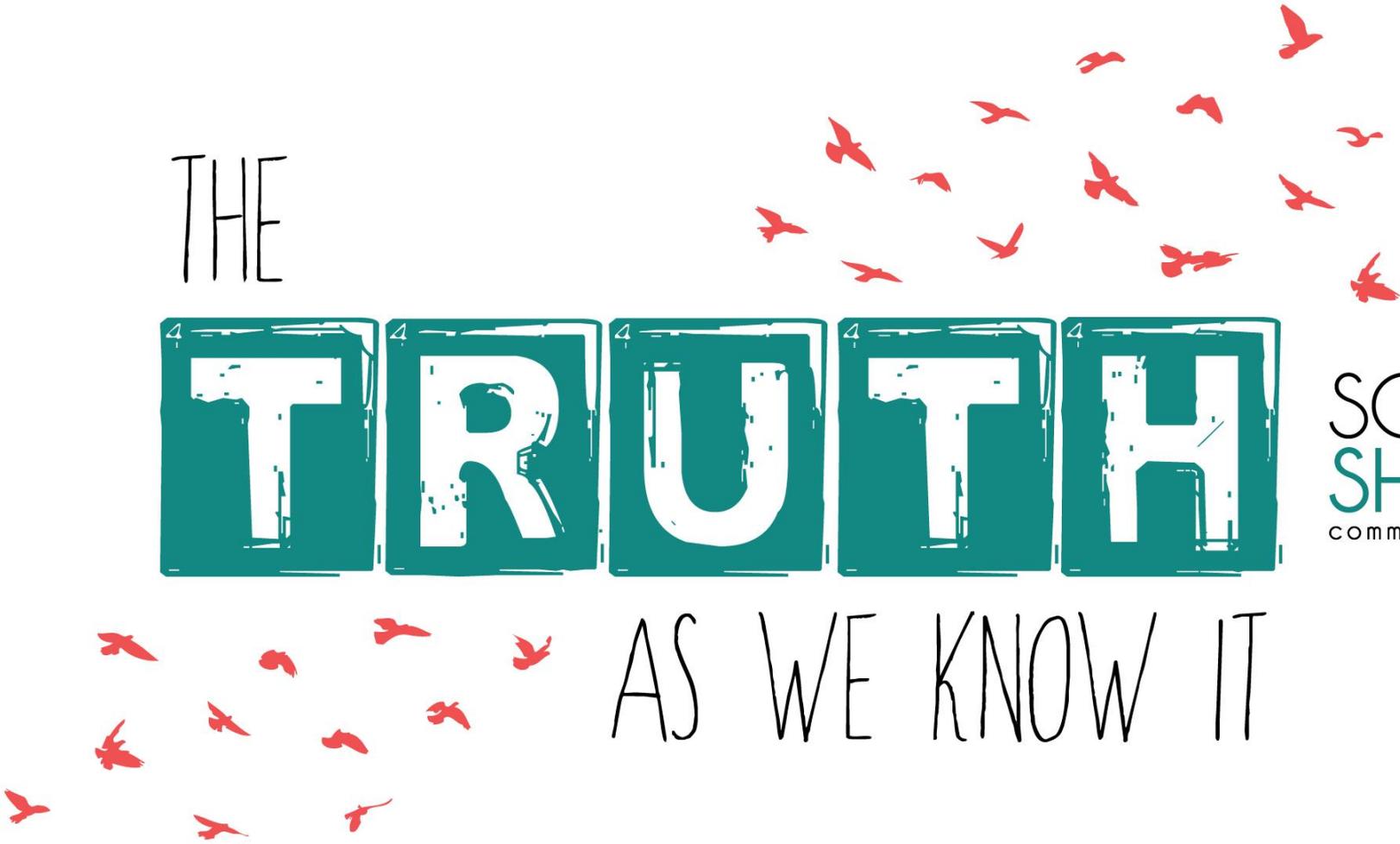


THE

TRUTH

AS WE KNOW IT

SOUTH
SHORE
community church





“FROM RESENTMENT TO GRATITUDE”

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same.



And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.



Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?”



Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to the last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.' Matthew 20:1-16

THE
TRUTH SOUTH SHORE
community church
AS WE KNOW IT



THE

TRUTH

SOUTH
SHORE
community church

AS WE KNOW IT





***“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,” declares the
LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the
earth, so are my ways higher than your
ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”***

Isaiah 59:8-9



What can we learn from the parable?

- God is not our debtor. He does not owe us anything. (He has given us everything when He sent Jesus to die for us and to provide a way for us to be reconciled to Him and spend all eternity with Him.)
- It was not about the Landowner being unfair, but about Him being generous with what was already His



- ***Resentment*** blocks action; ***Gratitude*** lets us move forward toward new possibilities
- ***Resentment*** makes us cling to negative feelings; ***Gratitude*** allows us to let go
- ***Resentment*** exhausts us by complicated jealousies, stirring up destructive desires for revenge; ***Gratitude*** takes our fatigue away and gives us new vitality and enthusiasm.



How do we move from resentment to Gratitude?

1. We must allow the Holy Spirit to fully surface our resentment and confess it in loving community.
2. We must recognize that our life is not our own to be defended, but a gift from God to be shared.
3. We must recognize that all we have is a gift. Our part is to be grateful and to give thanks. ***Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1Thes. 5:16-18***



How do we move from Resentment to Gratitude?

4. We do this in an authentic community of people that nurtures the spirit of gratitude and service in the spiritual life. (cell multiplication)
5. We must learn to listen to all that is going on around us and trust that God is guiding us and will be faithful. This means increasing our awareness of God's presence. (Keeping a Gratitude journal)
6. We must see that an Attitude of Gratitude is a choice; a difficult spiritual discipline that at the core says, "I BELIEVE THAT GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME and because of that belief, I'm going to trust you, Lord. I am going to choose to be grateful."