



*The Rock is a Youth
Ministry of Ascension
Lutheran Church*

To Tell the Truth: Martin Luther

Based on Romans 1:17 and 5:1

Gary: **Matt S.**
Gabby: **Ryan**
Peggy: **Allee**
Patty: **Annee**
Kitty: **Kelli**
Katy: **Lauren**
Luther: **Mattias**
Imposter 1: **Michael**
Imposter 2: **Toby**

Setting: *The old game show "To Tell the Truth". A panel of 4 celebrity judges interview 3 contestants: a famous person and two imposters. The goal is to "find out" who is telling the truth. This skit had two purposes: (1) to commemorate the Protestant Reformation, and (2) to commemorate the 40th Anniversary Ordination of our pastor.*

Gabby: Welcome to a special edition of "To Tell the Truth". I'm your announcer, Gabby...

Gary: And I'm Gary, your Host. The way our show is played is that a panel of celebrity judges interview three contestants. The contestants consist of one famous person and two imposters claiming to be that person.

Gabby: At the end of the show, the contestants are awarded according to their ability to "stump the panel" in revealing the true identity of the famous person.

Gary: Let's introduce our celebrity judges: Peggy, Patty,

October 28, 2007

Page 1

©2007 David Skarshaug (www.alcames.org). Conditions for use: (1) If you use all or parts of this script in any form, please consider sending a suggested \$25 donation check made out to "The ROCK" to the following address: Ascension Lutheran Church, 615 Kellogg, Ames, IA 50010. Reference the script title in the memo on the check. (2) Do not sell any part of this script, even if you rewrite it. (3) You may reproduce this script for internal use, but all copies must contain this copyright statement.

To Tell the Truth: Martin Luther

Kitty, and Katy: all famous celebrities themselves, or so we are told. (*Panelists all acknowledge intro.*)
Back to you Gabby.

Gabby: Thanks Gary. Well, it looks, like it's time for our contestants to come out and introduce themselves. (*Contestants enter in line and remain standing.*)

Imposter 1: My name is Martin Luther! Here I stand!

Imposter 2: My name is Martin Luther! Here I stand!

Luther: My name is Martin Luther! Here I stand!

Gary: Ah, okay, Martins, there you sit—so help you God. (*Contestants sit.*) Let's start with Kitty.

Kitty: Contestant 1, is it true you had a wife, who was a run-away nun?

Imposter 1: No, you must have me confused with Captain Von Trapp.

Kitty: Ah...yeah. Contestant 2, you married a nun, correct

Imposter 2: But, I didn't steal her. She ran away. You see, Katie was 26 when we married, and I was 41. She was a tempestuous red head, and....

Kitty: And what exactly is wrong with redheads, Dr. Luther?

Imposter 1: Well, ah...

Kitty: Contestant 3, any thoughts on marriage?

Luther: Well, it's true Katie was not a likely candidate for marriage. In fact, my friends told me, "for heaven's sake, not this one." But I told them this: (*rhyming*) He who loves not women, wine and song, remains a fool his whole life long.

Kitty: So, Contestant 3, was it an easy adjustment for you, the former monk, and Katie, the former nun?

To Tell the Truth: Martin Luther

- Luther: Well, at 41, there's a lot to get used to in the first year of marriage. One wakes up in the morning and finds a pair of pigtails on the pillow that were not there before. But it was a good marriage. As I used to say, in domestic affairs I defer to Katie. Otherwise, I am led by the Holy Ghost.
- Katy: Contestant 1, it's been said that you were sometimes known for making angry and outrageous statements. Is this true?
- Imposter 1: Of course not. Why would you say that?
- Katy: Oh, come now: it is well documented. Contestant 2?
- Imposter 2: You've read my small catechism. Outrageous statements? What does this mean? We should fear and love God that we may not curse, swear, or make angry and outrageous statements.
- Katy: Hmm...I don't think I remember that part of the catechism, although that phrasing does sound somewhat familiar. Contestant 3? Any outrageous statements?
- Luther: Outrageous statements...yes. I was very human, very earthy, and very German. I had stomach problems... kidney stones, intestinal problems, and the like. I once said that if I break wind in Wittenberg, they will hear it in Leipzig. I was born to war with fanatics and devils. Consequently my books are very stormy and bellicose. I must root out the stumps and trunks, hew away the thorns and briar, fill in the puddles. I am the rough woodsman who must pioneer and hew a path.
- Katy: So what did you do to control your anger?
- Luther: Control my anger? When I am angry, I pray well and I preach well. Regarding prayer, the fewer the words, the better the prayer. Regarding preaching, it is not necessary for a preacher to express all his

To Tell the Truth: Martin Luther

thoughts in one sermon. A preacher should have three principles: first, to make a good beginning, and not spend time with many words before coming to the point; secondly, to say that which belongs to the subject in chief, and avoid strange and foreign thoughts; thirdly, to stop at the proper time.

- Gary: Your turn, Peggy.
- Peggy: Contestant 1, as a Doctor of Theology, what do you think God did before he created the world?
- Imposter 1: Hmm. Tough question. *(Pause.)* I've got it! I have a dream...
- Peggy: Contestant 1, you really didn't study much for this exam, did you?
- Imposter 1: Doh! *(slaps head.)*
- Peggy: Contestant 2, what do you think God did before he created the world?
- Imposter 2: Well, of course we don't know. But perhaps he was into music. After all, music is no invention of ours: it is a gift of God. Next to theology I give music the highest place of honor. Satan hates music: he knows how it drives the evil spirit out of us. He who has skill in the art of music is of good temperament and fitted for all things.
- Peggy: Hmm. Sounds like Luther. Contestant 3?
- Luther: What did God do before he created the world? *(Pause.)* He created hell for people who ask that question. *(Laughs.)* Of course, I'm joking. As I've said many times, if I am not allowed to laugh in heaven, I don't want to go there.
- Gary: Your question, Patty.
- Patty: Contestant 1, while you were still living as an Augustinian monk, it is said that you felt tormented. Where most monks would spend a few minutes in

To Tell the Truth: Martin Luther

confession every week, you would spend hours every day confessing sins. Why is this? After all, how many sins could you commit while living as a monk in a monastery? What could you possibly confess?

- Imposter 1: (*Long pause.*) I coveted brother Frederick's sauerkraut?
- Patty: Contestant 2? What would you confess?
- Imposter 2: Others try to make me a fixed star, but I am an irregular planet. Like I've said before, our Lord God must be a pious man to be able to love rascals. I can't do it, and yet I am a rascal myself.
- Patty: Hmm. Sounds like Luther. Contestant 3, why all the hours in the confessional?
- Luther: Ah yes, I was a good monk, and I kept the rule of my order so strictly that I may say that if ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery it was I. The problem was not so much the abundance of my sins, but rather my understanding that God demands perfection, which is unachievable.
- Kitty: Contestant 3, so you're saying you saw sin as not just individual things, but rather an entire attitude toward God?
- Luther: Human nature. You see, human nature is like a drunken peasant. Lift him into the saddle on one side, and over he topples on the other side. If to love the Lord your God with all your heart is The Great Commandment, then any failure to do that is the Great Sin. In spite of my efforts, I realized I COULD not love God with ALL my heart. None of us keep the Great Commandment—even for five minutes.
- Katy: Contestant 3, so your understanding of God's law nearly drove you crazy?
- Luther: Although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience and I had no

To Tell the Truth: Martin Luther

confidence that my merit would satisfy him. My friend, Johann Staupitz, recognized this and told me "Man, God is not angry with you. You are angry with God. Don't you know that God commands you to hope?"

Peggy: Contestant 3, isn't it true that you were once quoted as saying "Love God? Sometimes I hate Him." How could you say that?

Luther: I greatly longed to understand Paul's Epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, "The Justice of God" because I took it to mean THAT justice whereby God is just and deals justly in punishing the unjust. Therefore I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated...him.

Patty: So how did you reconcile this?

Luther: Having a legal mind, I had no problem grasping the law—I was guilty. It was the Gospel message I struggled with. Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace & sheer mercy God justifies US through faith.

Patty: Romans 1:17 reads, "For in the gospel a righteousness FROM God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'"

Luther: Exactly, and Romans 5:1 reads, "Therefore, since we have been justified through Faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning for me. Where before the "justice of God" had filled me with hate, now it became to me inexpressibly sweet.

(Buzzer Sounds.)

Gary: Looks like time is up. Panel, please post your guesses as to the real Martin Luther.

Gabby: While the hosts are posting their guesses, I'd like to remind the audience that most of the answers from

To Tell the Truth: Martin Luther

two of the contestants were direct or paraphrased quotations from Martin Luther.

Gary: Will the real Martin Luther please stand up (*after several fake stands, Luther stands and presents gift to Pastor John.*)

(*Panelists post 4 cards—1 each--that read "Happy", "40th", "Pastor", and "John"*)

Luther: In honor of the 40th Anniversary of your Ordination and on behalf of the congregation, I'm pleased to present you with a collection of my sermons.