

Today's Message: "Open Letter: Faith Capacity"

"Wouldn't we all love to go back and make a few course corrections in our lives? Maybe sidestep those; 'If I only knew then what I know now' moments.' Some mistakes and failures in life can become treasured life lessons; others are just plain train wrecks. We have decided to spend November at North Way hearing from three seasoned Pastors with a combined 137 years of following Christ and 104 plus years of church ministry experience in their rear view mirror. In this four-part Series titled; "Open Letter" you will hear humble accounts of life lessons learned. Join us for an opportunity to get it right the first time!" – Scott Stevens

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. (Mark 6: 30 - 33, ESV)

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat. But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish. (Mark 6: 34 - 38, ESV)

"Open Letter: Part 1"

Pastor Scott Stevens

November 7 & 8, 2015

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Faith Capacity Killers

1. Consumerism - The belief that we can find fulfillment in accumulating wealth and the things that come with wealth.
 - “Americans have consumed more resources over the last fifty years than the total used by the entire population of the earth prior to 1950.”
 - *...give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” - Proverbs 30:8*
2. Individualism – Having an excessively high opinion of oneself or one's importance.
 - *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. - Galatians 2:20*
3. Universalism or New Age - “Olly olly in come free” belief.
 - *Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. - Romans 1:25*

Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men. (Mark 6:39 - 44, ESV)

“I feel pulled in opposite directions over the money issue. Sometimes I want to sell everything I own and give it away and other times I want to rid myself of guilt and enjoy everything that is available to me in this great Nation. Mostly though I wished I did not have to think about money at all, however I knew I must somehow come to terms with the Bible's very strong statements about money. The journey was not easy, but it was worth it.” – Phillip Yancey

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