

SESSION TWO: THE SCARIEST STEPS EVER TAKEN...

Statement...we resume our study: Peter takes the SCARIEST STEPS ever taken. Ortberg tells a story of a family heirloom that was treated in 2 different ways by his Grandmother and mother: to one, it was a gift too valuable to be used and to the other it was too valuable not to be used.

Question: What's in your box, the greatest gift God has given you?

There are 2 approaches to faith: water walkers or boat Potatoes, those who take risks, use their gifts, and make an impact; those who play it safe, who either ignore or waste their gifts. We all have gifts, skills, and the potential to become WHOM GOD DESTINED US TO BE. Yet having potential and rising to meet it are not the same. Potential is God's gift to us; what we do with it is our gift to God.

WHY BOAT POTATOES WASTE GIFTS...Jesus told the "parable of the talents" as a wake-up call to boat potatoes. How did his story affect you? No landowner would act as Jesus described it if he weren't crazy. While the 1st two servants go on a limb, the timid servant hugs the trunk.

Question: what talents have you buried or let slip away?

God wants us to use what he has given us. It is really a story about life, not financial returns. We can't stand by, content to do nothing. We have choices to make and resources talents to invest. Ortberg offers 3 reasons why BOAT POTATOES waste God-given gifts

- 1. Comparison: we compare ourselves to others, feel superior or inferior to their level of giftedness. Comparison isn't an adequate excuse for not giving our lives/gifts to God**
- 2. Fear...the 2nd barrier to faith: FEAR. Fear led many people in the bible to bury their talents, be disobedient to God's call.**

Question: How has fear kept you from seizing opportunities to do good in life or reach your potential?

- 3. Sloth...In our culture, laziness is not a sin anyone would admit. Sloth isn't just "physical laziness". Even busy people show signs of slothfulness or fail to do what should be done at right time**

PERSONAL COMFORT...our need for comfort can be barrier to spiritual growth. God created us with INTERNAL NEED to be challenged; we grow only as we face/overcome challenges. God wants us to LIVE BY FAITH, not FEAR. When times get tough, we focus on MANAGING RISKS and not on EXERCISING FAITH. If you face a challenge that seems beyond your ability to handle, there is a good chance God has his hand in it. You feel inadequate. In our own strength, we are inadequate.