



Words of Wisdom

A Spiritual Feast To Satisfy The Deepest Hunger

by *The Reverend*

Dr. Thomas K. Tewell

(NAPSA)—Jesus Christ said, “I am the bread of life. Anyone who comes to me will never hunger. Anyone who believes in me will never thirst.”



Dr. Tewell

In the Bible, eating and food are used as important metaphors for the Kingdom of God. When Jesus described the kingdom, he so often described it in terms of a “feast” or “banquet,” in which those who had come were satisfied.

The above verse comes from the Gospel According to John, Chapter 6. In this section, Jesus engages in a profound dialogue: He is not the bread giver, but the bread itself. Your deepest needs, He is saying, are not physical or material; they are spiritual. “I am the basic nourishment of life,” says Jesus.

There are three criteria that John gives us to evaluate whether or not a church is really meeting the spiritual needs of people:

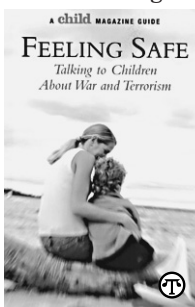
1. The church that is the “five-star,” spiritually nourishing church will take seriously the diverse appetites of all who come. It’s a matter of “attitude alteration.” If a house of worship is truly nourishing those who pass through its doors, then those people should leave with a new perspective. Fulfilled by faith and spiritual uplift.

2. The spiritually nourishing church will teach its parishioners to feed themselves. Worship and education are not enough unless they challenge people, teach people, equip people and whet people’s appetites to feed themselves. You

can’t reap dividends off investments you never make, so in good times, it is crucial to make an investment in Christ, so that you can draw on it when you have to.

3. A great church must offer take-out service. Not everyone is able (or willing) to come in for regular worship services, so we must bring spiritual teaching to them—not with rhetoric, but with noble deeds, kind words and pure thought. As Jesus commanded, “Go ye into the world and preach the Gospel.”

For parents, part of this spiritual teaching—and nourishment



of the younger generation—can be found in how you deal with your children. I address this topic in a section of the book *Feeling Safe: Talking to Children About War and Terrorism*

called “The Faith Factor”: Do not promise that you will always keep your children safe because you don’t know that you can, but assure them that you will try your best.

Remember, a five-star church meets the attitudes and appetites of the people of the world. Jesus is the bread of life, and anyone who believes will never thirst. With worship, people may find a light snack or the ultimate satisfaction—whatever they’re hungry for.

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