



One Page Sermon

By Pastor Robb McCoy

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If you can do more, teach.

I want to tell you about three of the great teachers I had in life. The first was Mrs. Zito. She was my science teacher from grades 4-6. She was a brilliant curriculum writer, and created many hands-on lessons that I still remember. We learned the scientific method more than we learned scientific facts. She did not just teach us about a subject, she taught us how to learn about about a subject.

I will never forget the day that we came to class and there was a kiddie-pool full of shallow water and dozens of crayfish. We spent the next few weeks experimenting with the animals. I ran an experiment to see if they were faster on dry land or under water.

I also remember the unit on meal worms, and watching them go through their metamorphosis to beetles. I remember building clay boats, crafting structures for the egg drop, and dipping objects into acids and bases. Mrs. Zito showed us with tangible, practical, hands-on lessons. She let us play, try, make mistakes, and learn.

I remember Mrs. Schmidt. She was my Language Arts teacher in grades 7-8. She was tough. She was ruthless in her grading. I remember our first writing assignment for her that came back covered in red ink with a terrible grade. Two years later I gave her a writing assignment—one in which I went above and beyond the assigned task, and I will never forget her reply. Two years after getting crushed by her, she wrote on my story about Pearl Harbor, "This is a great story. Keep working on it, and some day it will be published and I'll be able to say, 'I knew him when.'"

She believed in me and inspired me. She was hard but fair and she helped me believe—for the first time in my life—that I was truly good at something. She saw my talent for writing and it is something I have used, honed, and strengthened ever since. She helped me work, improve, and ultimately made me believe in myself.

I remember Dr. Bushnell. He was one of my history professors in college. He taught one of my favorite classes: The History of the Civil Rights Movement. He told us about Fred Shuttlesworth and Ralph Abernathy. We

learned about groups like the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Committee. He told us about marches in Birmingham, sit-ins in Atlanta, and the reactions of folks like Bull Connor.

We read about these things in books, and then he told us about the ways in which he participated. He told us about meeting with the likes of Shuttlesworth, Abernathy, and Dr. Martin Luther King. He taught from a place of authority and experience and brought these historical figures and events to life.

Finally, I think of Jesus, the teacher. Jesus taught with stories. He taught with long speeches. He taught by example. Sometimes he used objects. Sometimes he asked questions. Jesus, like Mrs. Zito, gave his disciples a chance to learn. He let them go out on their own and do. He taught them so that they could do more.

Like Mrs. Schmidt, he inspired them. He was hard them, but he also encouraged them. He called the "salt of the earth," and "light of the world," and inspired them to courage and faith.

Like Dr. Bushnell, he taught with authority of experience. He showed them what he was teaching through his actions. Jesus was a teacher—a great teacher. He taught to inspire. He taught with authority. He taught so that his students would be transformed.

He taught because he knew he could accomplish more with students (disciples is just another word for student). He taught because he not only could "do." He taught to "do more."

