

General Topics :: Merry Christmas!!

Merry Christmas!! - posted by tigger (), on: 2003/12/26 16:47

Merry Christmas everyone!

It was Christmas Eve 1944, and the Allies were moving across Europe. Three men were separated from their company, cut off by enemy soldiers. One was badly wounded, and the other two knew the situation was desperate as the weather continued to deteriorate. Using a damaged map, they managed to find a road leading into a small French town that had been ravaged by the fighting. However, before arriving, the wounded soldier died. Grief stricken and scared, the soldiers approached a small church on the outskirts of town with a cemetery in behind. After knocking several times a small, old, worried looking priest opened the door several inches, not saying a word. One soldier explained their dilemma: they were lost and needed a safe place to stay for the night, but worse, their friend had died and they would like to bury the man properly in the cemetery of the church. The priest indicated he could help with the shelter, and possibly the burial. However, upon asking the relevant questions, it was found that the man was not a baptized Catholic, and church regulations required Catholic baptism for burial in the cemetery. The priest apologized saying that his hands were tied with respect to the sacred land, but he would allow them to bury their friend at a spot just outside the fence. He led them to the spot and the men buried their friend, explaining to the priest that they would return after the fighting was over and arrange to have the body returned to the soldier's family.

It was two years before the soldiers could return. Entering the church yard, they walked to the spot outside the fence, but the marker they had left was gone. In fact, no trace of the grave could be found. Baffled, the men approached the door of the residence as they had two years earlier. Upon knocking, the same small old priest answered the door. The men explained that they had been there two years before and had buried their friend along the fence, but now, they could not find the spot. "What happened" they asked. Perhaps the spot on the fence was still too close for the Church's liking.

"No, it's not that", the priest said. "After you left two years ago, I knew what had happened wasn't right. I called the church leaders, and together, we moved the fence. Your friend is now inside the cemetery."

Because our sin is incompatible with God's Holiness, we stood separated from him. But then, on Christmas Eve, when we could not approach God with our own actions....God moved the fence.

"For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

May God bless all of you richly this Christmas, and always.

Jen

Re: Merry Christmas!! - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2003/12/26 21:58

Quote:

-----when we could not approach God with our own actions....God moved the fence.

Thanks Jen for sharing this, in case you don't know Jen is my sister :-P