

Saintly Living: Believing
Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8

Application

But how she made it through can help us now

Heb 10:17-18 Reconciliation, which is what CtB preached her whole life, and forgiveness are the root of our relationship with God and Christ.

We do not face the insecurity and uncertainty of war and imprisonment that CtB did

Forgiveness - reconciliation are acts of the spiritual will. They are the essence of our belief.

CtB story re: guard - See printout

CtB and her family were responsible for saving over 800 Jews, and many others.

Saintly living requires believing, but we must understand believing to be an act of the will, the strength of which comes not from us but from God and the Holy Spirit.

They believed, and in their belief, they acted, and in their actions, they forgave, and in their forgiveness, they believed.

David Lose quote

In the face of uncertainty and insecurity, we are called, just as Jesus calls the disciples, to believe in our relationship with God and Christ.

Corrie ten Boom

On Dec 12, 1967, was recognized by Israel as one of the "Righteous among the nations" - the highest recognition Jews give to non-Jews

Before you question her being a Calvinist, you should know that also means a very high regard for humanity as a whole. "We are all equal under God" is a Calvinist idea. the tenBooms believed this deeply.

CtB was born into a family of Dutch Reformed believers. Very Calvinist.

Became a safe house for Jews, Dutch resistance and dissident soldiers during WW2.

had an "open house" in Haarlem, Netherlands for all in need.

CtB was part of the network of safe houses and path to freedom for Jews, etc.

Jews and resistance fighters were never found - behind false wall in CtB's bedroom.

House was raided on Feb 28, '44

father Casper when told he could die for housing Jews said, "It would be an honor to give my life for God's ancient people."

In Sept 1944, CtB and Betsie transf. to Ravensbruck CC.

Ravensbruck was women's camp. Forced labor, med experiments, brothel. In 1945, became death camp.

CtB, sister Betsie, and father Casper all arrested.

Betsie died in Dec. '44 - CtB was released by clerical error at end of month

Revelation - unveiling = Nazi Germany was, for her, an unveiling of the tribulations that Jesus tells us to expect. Mk 13:7-8

CtB traveled world preaching and teaching about her experiences. Her experience strengthened her faith, did not diminish it.

Mark 13:1-8

J's answer: Not Now

How do we face the unknown future? When will the future you say is coming be here?

Not now = led astray, claims to messiahhood, signs of war and war, conflict

J "reveals" = apocalypse

Don't let it distract you from your relationship with me.

"There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still"

Corrie ten Boomius

1 End of Pentecost

On edge of Advent - Waiting

How do we face the unknown? the difficult?

Jesus has shown us we cannot rely on the old structures to move forward

2 Belief/Faith

How do we maintain it in the face of the unknown and difficult?

What will we rely upon, if anything?

What is belief? Faith?

- Reliance on list of doctrines and statements?
- Trust in a relationship?
- Doctrine requires assent and memorization, etc.
- Relationship of trust requires enacting of the spiritual will to continue the relationship over time.