

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday April 28, 2024 - I Corinthians 13: 4-5

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

Read I Corinthians 13 for meditation and inspiration.



EVIL CREEPS IN THE DARK – LOVE SHINES ON WITH HOPE

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

Perhaps some of you remember the story of King Henry and Queen Eleanor of England. They loved each other dearly. As young persons, they enjoyed life together with great passion and delight. But, as the years went by, things changed. Finally, King Henry locked up his Queen in the Tower. Christmas came, and Henry granted Eleanor permission to leave the Tower and be with him for the day. But when they met, they brandished knives at one another, each wanting to destroy the other. Then one of them grew pensive and asked, "How, from where we were, did we get to where we are now?" To which the other replied, "A little bit at a time."

From our early childhood, most of us have been told that God is Love, that God loves us, that God loves everybody. We believe Jesus was God in the flesh, that Jesus and the Father are One, that what Jesus taught came from the Father. We believe that Jesus taught "peace" as a way of life, that the peacemakers would be called the children of God, and that Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." And yet, we seem so ready and willing to conform to a system that lavishes its resources

on preparing for war and waging war. How did we get to where we are today? I suppose, just the same as those war-torn generations that preceded us: "A little bit at a time."

I remember traveling from Hanover to Berlin by train back in 1972. The trip was through East Germany and stopped several times by the East Germans to search and harass travelers as much as possible. In my train car was an elderly woman who was elegantly dressed. We began to talk about World War II and she told me that even as late as early 1939, no one really believed that Hitler would start a war. She went on to say it was little by little, meter by meter he took control, and no one seemed to be affected much by it until it was just too late to stop him or mount any protest as penalties were severe. We, in the end, all just put our heads down and kept our mouths shut. Evil often sneaks in slowly but steadily.

The religious history of humanity tells us that in those times when the spark grows dim -- when all manner of evil obscures any hope for peace and brotherhood, God raises His most formidable prophets. The strongest, loudest, most profound voices of hope always seem to come in different ways but are always present in special ways. Hitler did not prevail. Neither did Mussolini or Tojo. Voices of hope and freedom were stronger and won the day.

The Prince of Peace will one day reign in fulness and that is always the winning side for we all must know that "Love Always Wins".

In Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger