

Sunday, March 15, 2009

Seek Christ's Sanctuary

Actor comes in holding a bulletin insert, looks at it, looks all around, stops (by a microphone) and stands there looking puzzled.

Child comes in and asks: "What's the matter? You lose something?"

Actor: I didn't exactly lose it, I just can't find it. It says here (points to insert) "Seek Christ's Sanctuary." I'm not sure what a sanctuary is. Do you know?

Child: Sure. We learned about it in school. A sanctuary is a place where wild animals can live and be protected. (Waves, then walks off.)

Woman comes in carrying a big book she is reading; glasses down on her nose. She stops at the microphone and asks:

Woman: You look confused. I'm a teacher. Maybe I can help you.

Actor: It says here (points to insert) "Seek Christ's Sanctuary." I need to know what a sanctuary is.

Woman: Well, if it involves Christians, it might be a place to hide or a place of protection. Many Christians were persecuted over the years by those who didn't believe in Christ. I hope you find what you're looking for. (Moves on.)

A man enters and stops at the microphone.

Man: Can I help you? You seem to be looking for something.

Actor: I am. I'm trying to find out what a sanctuary is.

Man: Oh, that's easy. The dictionary says it's any religious holy place, like a church or a mosque, or a temple, depending on whether you're Christian, Muslim, or Jewish. (Pats the actor's back, then leaves)

Jolly woman enters, smiling, waving, then stops by the microphone.

Jolly woman: Hi, honey, looking for something?

Actor: (Shows her the insert) I'm looking for this sanctuary it talks about.

Jolly woman: Well, look no further. You're standing in it. (Waves her arm around the room) We call this the sanctuary. It's the place where we worship, the most sacred part of our church. And over there is a classroom and downstairs is the gym and...

Actor: (interrupting) Thank you. (Woman smiles and moves on.)

Minister comes in, stops beside the actor.

Minister: What's that you're reading?

Actor: (shows the insert) This says "Seek Christ's Sanctuary" and I'm trying to find out what a sanctuary is.

Minister: Well, you need both words, in this case. The part that makes it special is that Christ is involved. It's about worship and Jesus and being free to come and learn how to be closer to God.

Actor: (looking around) Then is this the place?

Minister: It's as good a place as any to start. Come on, let's—what was that first word—"seek" together. (both go down and sit in the congregation)

Explanation, if needed

Jesus calls us to be God's eternal sanctuary. There were times when he had to challenge religious rules and practices that were so embedded they prevented an openness allowing for God's fresh revelation to daily impact people. When Jesus said, "If you destroy this temple, in three days I will raise it up," he was referring to the temple being his body. It is Jesus who is the temple. It is Jesus who is the everlasting sanctuary for God. And it is Jesus calling us to his sanctuary to experience, now, life eternal.