

Hiding Place (hiding Jews from Germans) by Corrie Ten Boom (1971)

1937 the clock shop was celebrating its 100th birthday & things were changing in Holland. Their father [Casper] raised 4 kids [Betsie & Corrie lived at home] & then took in 11 more. Nollie lived nearby, but Willem lived in another town. As early as 1927, seeds of contempt were being planting in the schools. God uses our past experiences to prepare us for the future. Father took the train every Monday to Amsterdam naval Observatory to synchronize his watch [the trip was not needed when radio came out & you could hear Big Ben strike on BBC].

1939 Germany invaded Holland. At first there were only curfews, then food rations & no radios. More & more restrictions followed. Jews had to register, wear yellow stars & given no ration cards. Then they were hauled away. The Gestapo invaded everyone's privacy. The Ten Booms opened their home to those in need as they always did, but now it could cost them their lives.

They became part of the underground resistance, stole some ration cards & built a secret hiding place in their house. Most Jews they took in were only there a day or two before they moved out to a country farm. But eventually some came that had no place to move on to & 8 had to stay put. They installed alarm system & had to practice so they could get them all in the hiding place within 1 minute. They also practiced being woken from sleep & interrogation questions.

Some Jews in hiding made too much noise or other mistakes they quickly got them captured. 28Feb1944 the Gestapo came to the clock shop while they were having a Bible study & 35 were arrested. The Germans did not find the hiding place & their guests escaped later. The Ten Booms were bused to over-crowded prisons in Holland. The 84 yr old father soon died. A copy of the Gospel of John & a bottle of vitamin drops were smuggled in.

She led her interrogator to the Lord & he let her to see her sister at a glance. Then he allowed a short family reunion to read her father's will. All four of them were in one room for the last time. Betsie & Corrie were moved to a concentration camp & told they were released [but were not]. Later packed on a freight train & taken to Ravensbruck concentration in Germany four days away.

She was to work in a factory, but Betsie was sick [she was on knitting duty]. The weaker Betsie got, the closer the God she became. God helped her love her enemies & gave her a vision of a mansion [& a separate converted concentration camp] He would give her to restore the broken hearted after the war. They gave thanks for all things, including the fleas & lice because the guards wouldn't come close enough & they were able to keep their Bible. God preformed miracles.

Fridays they were humiliated by standing naked in line for their medical exams. 35,000 prisoners endured these camps, but 100s died daily. It was so cold during roll call that they marched in place, but this caused edema [swollen ankles]. They read Bible, sang songs & prayed with other prisoners. Betsie died in Dec '44. Two days later Corrie was given discharge papers, but it took a week for her swollen ankles to be good enough for release.

She took a slow train ride into Holland [tracks were in bad shape]. She had no food or money so she went to a hospital. They cared for her for 10 days. It was the 1st hot bath & sheets in almost a year. They arranged for an illegal trip to get her home. She took in the feeble-minded.

She did not return to the underground, but began speaking [joy runs deeper than despair] in churches. God told a lady to give her mansion to Betsie's vision. The biggest need in post-war Germany was housing & they offered Darmstadt camp to Corrie in '46. She painted them spring green & added window boxes with flowers.

She found out later her release was a clerical error & women her age were taken to the gas chambers. For the next 25 yrs, she went around the world speaking & sharing God's love.

Quotes:

"Some knowledge is too heavy for children. When you are older & stringer you can bear it. For now, you must trust me to carry it for you." God gives you what you need when you need it, not before. When human effort had done its best & failed, would God's power alone be free to work. (her father)

"Happiness isn't something that depends on our surroundings; it's something we make inside ourselves." (her mama)

"God's light shines the brightest in dark places." (Betsie)

"Jesus can turn loss into glory." (Corrie)

Joke:

Can you recite the one-hundred & sixty-six Psalms? There is no Ps 166. He quoted Ps 100 [which starts the same as Ps 66]. Get it? [Ps 100+66].

Books:

How to Win Friends & Influence People [Dale Carnegie]; the Cross & the Switchblade; They Speak with Other Tongues & God's Smuggler (John Sherrill).

Movie:

Hiding Place

Note:

John & Elizabeth Sherrill co-authored this book from the storey she told them.