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And Then They Came For Me

by
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“First they came for the Communists, and I didn’t speak up, because I wasn’t a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I didn’t speak up, because I wasn’t a Jew.

Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn’t speak up, because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me, and by that time there was no one left to speak up for me.”

Rev. Martin Niemoller, 1945

The Rev. Niemoller was a German U-Boat commander in WWI and later followed in his father’s footsteps becoming a pastor of a Lutheran church in Berlin before and after WWII. His comments, quoted above, represent his feelings concerning the ability of Hitler to hoodwink the German people into turning their heads and doing nothing while he committed atrocity after atrocity to various citizen groups of the Fatherland. Rev. Niemoller, although he opposed Adolf Hitler, felt he didn’t speak out enough while Germany went down the tubes of degradation toward ultimate destruction and defeat.

The German people chose not to get involved with the politics of the day and to believe that their idyllic life would continue under their Fuhrer. Their lack of action was much like our “*don’t get involved*” attitude we are exhibiting more and more in our society because of fears of retribution or being ostracized by our friends. And because of their fear and selfish attitudes a once great and powerful nation was beaten into the ground and divided for many decades.

Many of us today have become complacent in our attitude that all is right with our nation and that as long as we remain politically correct in our acceptance of all ideologies, religions and cultures, even to the detriment of our own national heritage, all will be right with the world and peace will prevail. Alas, that could never be, but more and more individuals are being swayed to think that it will be.

There was a time when I sat on the fence and took no interest in what was going on, culturally or politically, in this country. I was only out to have a good time and leave everyone else alone as long as they left me alone. “*If it feels good, do it... as long as you don’t step on my toes in the doing,*” was my credo. But, you know, the fence is a tenuous place to be. Oh, you’re not lonely on the fence because that’s where the majority of people stay until something earth shattering comes along and knocks you off with sometimes terrible consequences.

I jumped down off the fence several years ago and absolutely refuse to return to the seemingly safe, lofty environs of its position. The quirky thing about fence sitters is that the view from that high ground should allow them to see everything going on below but they are so intent on keeping the status quo for themselves, they are blinded to what's happening to everyone else just below their perch. In their desire to be friends to everyone and accepting every philosophy coming down the pike they have allowed the erosion of their foundational truths upon which their fence is resting.

I paraphrase Rev. Niemoller's famous quote with the following:

"When they took away the reading of the Bible in public schools I said nothing because I didn't want to force feed my beliefs on anyone,

When they took away my right to pray aloud in public places I said nothing because I didn't want people to think I was a religious fanatic,

When they took away the posting of the Ten Commandments on public property and God's name from our legal currency I said nothing because I thought maybe my God could be offensive to those of other religions,

When they took away the right of our elected officials to publicly draw on their beliefs while making life changing decisions I said nothing because ... well, I said nothing,

When they put clergymen in jail for speaking from the pulpit the truth about social ills and immoral lifestyles I said nothing out of fear of going to jail myself,

When I finally decided it was time to speak out, my right to speak had been taken away as well.

Hitler didn't take Germany away from the citizens, the citizens gave it over to him freely and of their own volition. Since the beginning of the '60s the citizens of this country have been giving away our country as well to the secular despots who would like for it to become a Godless society free of moral and legal guardrails. To stop speaking of those who are instrumental in this surreptitious yet blatant attack on our society would be tantamount to treason.

This being an opinion forum I will continue to share my opinion and, hopefully, by so doing encourage others to jump down off the fence to join in the fray. I should not and will not be still. We appreciate letters from those who agree and/or disagree with our words, because that means souls are being stirred to the point of action... and that's a good thing. More should follow suit.

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