

Volume 5, Day 1: Secular or Sacred

In one scene of *Les Misérables* I found deep spiritual meaning. When an ex-convict who had been released from prison was invited into the Bishop's home for a meal and a good night's rest, conversation at the dinner table ensued. The criminal told the Bishop and his wife that he was imprisoned for 19 years for only having stolen a loaf of bread out of desperation to feed his hungry family. The bishop said to him, "Man can be unjust. " The convict shot back, "Man not **God**?"

I can't count how many times I have blamed God for things not happening to me as they should, that is according to my way of thinking. Since watching that scene, I have gone back and repented of many accusations that I have made toward God which had nothing to do with Him. But the Bishop sets another tremendous spiritual idea before us in the next two scenes.

The convict arises in the night, loads the family silverware into his knapsack. When the Bishop catches him in the act, the convict knocks him out and runs away with the silver. In the morning the French law-enforcement guards bring the criminal back to the Bishop's residence with the stolen silverware. Surprisingly when the guard told the Bishop, "He said you gave it to him," the Bishop replied, "Yes." He then turned to the ex-con and asked, "Why didn't you take the silver candlesticks too, they're worth a lot of money?" In the background, the Bishop's wife muttered, "Thank God, You caught him!"

The revelation for me was that the Bishop acted in a loving manner like Jesus Christ. The Bishop's wife, acted like most Christians I know who are happier to get their material valuables back, even if it means the criminal goes back to prison for the rest of his life! The Bishop's final words to the ex-con were, "With this silver I have bought your soul ... Now, I give you back to God."

Consider this. It is the kindness of God that leads men to repentance onto salvation not his judgment. In John 3:17 Jesus said, "I didn't come to condemn the world but to save it! Look for the sacred in everything, good or bad, and you will see God everywhere!

Find confirming scriptures and aligning experiences.

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan