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The Cost Of Freedom

As I stood on the beaches of Normandy, walked across thousands of tombstones of young American soldiers, and visited the museums, I saw, I heard, and finally understood some amazing truth about WWII. I grew up in France, and this war was not much talked about in the aftermath. I guess people were ready to move on and forget the pain and the struggles.

There, I understood a simple and hard truth: neutrality never works. It does not protect you. It feeds the evil beast. When you try to be “left alone,” you only leave the enemy alone to grow stronger.

France didn’t fight at the beginning of the war, hoping to appease despotism. The Treaty of Vichy was signed with Hitler, and the French people simply tried to stay neutral, thinking that not being “for” or “against” would allow them to survive safely. But one cannot appease an evil monster; it only serves to feed its hunger for more… more pride, more power, more death. This is why the church is called to be the salt of the earth and a restraining force, but unfortunately, the church was also silent.

One man finally stood up. General Charles de Gaulle said “NO” with a very outspoken message, and he called for resistance, for people to get out of the neutral zone and take a stand… then and only then, the tide began to turn. Ordinary people in France joined with England and America, and step by step, little by little took the country back.

I remember stories about my father, a fiery fourteen-year-old young man who would go to the coast of Corsica to pick up guns, hide them in a woodpile on his back, and run to deliver them to the resistance group in “le Maquis,” a place in the deep woods where the resistance hid and strategized. Once, the Germans stopped him, but because of his youth and small stature, they thought he was too young to do anything and let him go. My grandfather, on my mother’s side, was also a fiery short man. He hid a radio in his basement, which they would use to communicate with the English and pass messages to resistance members.

Some brave men and women chose to stand up when all others played it safe, and a whole movement started—a movement that called the brave, stirred up courage, and finally brought freedom.

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Yes, freedom came at a terrible price—blood on the sand, names on crosses, families with empty seats at home—but it came because people chose courage over comfort.

This is the lesson I take from Normandy: silence is not neutrality, it is consent. Waiting is not safety; it is surrender. In our time and age, courage is rare. Many, especially in churches today, try to play it safe. Neutrality, passivity, and tolerance for everything and everyone have become the norm, but little do they know that this feeds the evil beasts of socialism, communism, fascism, and Marxism — the anti-Christ's daughters. We cannot make the same mistake the French people made. Let us not stay neutral, thinking that If I leave you alone, then you will leave me alone. If we want freedom, we must defend it early, clearly, and together. Neutrality empowers the enemy. Courage liberates.

On September 10th, a young man, Charlie Kirk, is proof of this. He spoke with courage to defend our freedoms, our faith, our values, and our young people. It also cost him his life, but he started a movement with the same values and courage I saw in Normandy.