

The Red Chickens



Have you noticed how many Churches now exist under lock and key? It used to be, back in the olden days, that the Church in any community was open 24/7, in case there was a need for spiritual or even physical help. In the early days, before the Brotherhood of the Wind, Jaysee noticed that more and more Churches seemed to operate only on Sunday morning. The rest of the week, the doors were locked, and the phone was picked up by a machine or an operator in Pakistan. The Churches were empty, but the line at the welfare office was around the block, and there was something wrong about that, or so thought Jaysee. There seemed to be mounting evidence that a gang of bikers was involved in these thefts, and he vowed to get to the root of the problem, and if it could be fixed, he'd fix it. Jaysee knew that most bikers and clubs gave more to charity and their neighbors than they spent on themselves, and he wanted to preserve that reputation for the brothers and sisters of the road.

In order to help alleviate the problem, Jaysee called in one of the notorious 40 Minors, an ancient Motorcycle Club that included members who were source authorities for the Standard of Actions and Attitudes. Over the years there had been about 40 of these guys, who had "dug" into the rules and regulations of human behavior, and had written and spoken on behalf of a Standard of Procedure. Many organizations and even governments had adapted the Standards in one form or another through the years. Jaysee brought in Malachee, called the Italian, to investigate the Church closings and see what could be done about it. It was obvious that someone was targeting Churches, even though most of them were open to help the poor and needy. Often, the things stolen were supplies which were to be given away to those in need, as well as religious fixtures which were expensive to replace.

A big break came as the Italian was attending a local swap meet, looking for a decorative doodad for his scooter. He noticed one booth that had some canned food, clothing, and some religious candlesticks and statuary for sale, and that seemed a little odd to him. He inquired about more religious stuff for sale and was told to go out to an obscure clubhouse known as "Robber's Roost," and he would find a lot more stuff. Malachee thought it was a little funny to find a club named "Robbin' Roosters," but known to other local clubs as the "Red Chickens." Apparently, other bikers did not think much of this particular outfit. It was at the Roost that the Italian found the answer to the closed Churches. If they left their doors open, they were robbed blind by these wannabes and others like them who had no respect for other peoples property. Nor did they care about the poor and needy around them, the very ones that most clubs went out of their way to help by raising funds, collecting toys, and personal service. The Churches and charities had to lock their doors, not to keep the needy seekers out, but to keep the fixtures and supplies from walking off.

The real question, posed to Jaysee by Malachee, before he would include it in the Standards, was "If a man would rob a Church that belongs to God, does that mean he is robbing God?" Even the uncivilized heathen would not steal sacrifices from a wooden idol, so you would think that people would pause and think before stealing anything from a Church. If one is caught stealing, he goes to jail for a while, hopefully learning the error of his ways and respect for others. Stealing from God would rate an eternal sentence in a jail cell called hell, where there is no chance of parole or release. But hell is a whole different deal than jail; more than inconvenience and discomfort, but the totality of man's imagined evils against another, multiplied a million times over, heaped upon the incarcerated. Malachee did write in the Standards, a question that is asked by the Creator to the creature, "Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?'" (Malachi 3:8) The answer is obvious, even to the oblivious; you are takers instead of givers. You are cursed with greed and evil. You have no respect for anyone or anything.

Jaysee knew that what the Italian found out was true, but he also knew that most bikers would never think of robbing a Church. He also knew that robbing God was not just about Church robbing, that all human beings were guilty of it, and he knew how to fix the problem. All of us have robbed God at one time or another, maybe without even thinking about it. We have robbed God by turning our backs on God, failing to give Him the respect and honor He deserves. We have considered ourselves as needing no God, and have resisted His Standard of Authority. In mercy and love He came into this world to save us from misery and death because of our inherent sin, and we have turned our backs in defiance. We killed the Son of God, Jesus Christ, on a cross, and went about our business, content to rob God of that which was rightfully His, ourselves. But He has called to us out of the Resurrection, and invited us to stop robbing Him of what is His and give to Him His due, in repentance and faith. Will a man keep on being a "Red Chicken?"

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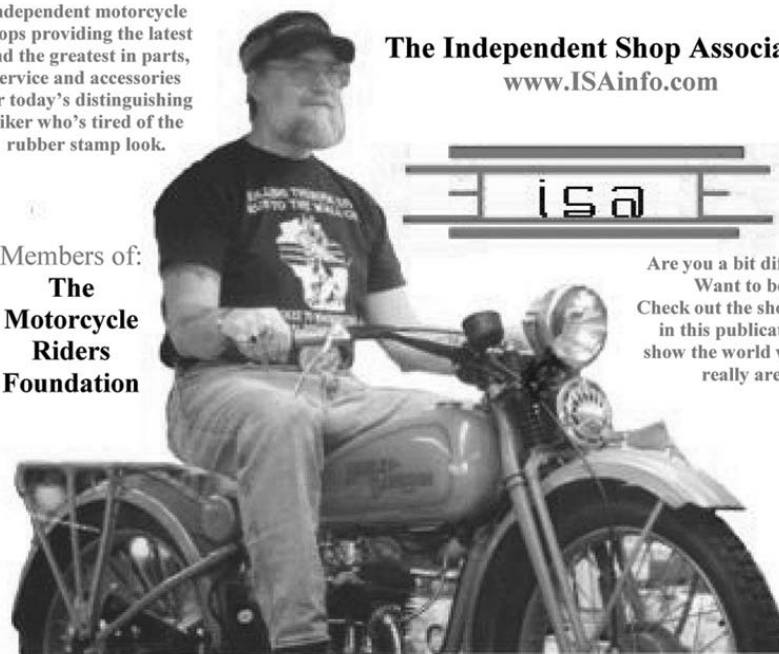
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