

People of Habit

Philip Haille wrote about the little village of Le Chambon in France -- a town whose people, unlike others in France, hid their Jews from the Nazis. Haille went there, wondering what sort of courageous, ethical heroes could risk all to do such extraordinary good. He interviewed people in the village, and was overwhelmed by their "ordinariness." They weren't heroes or smart, discerning people.

Haille decided that the one factor that united them was their attendance, Sunday after Sunday, at their little church, where they heard the sermons of Pastor Trochme. Over time, they became by habit people who just knew what to do and did it. When it came time for them to be courageous, the day the Nazis came to town, they quietly did what was right.

One old woman, who faked a heart attack when the Nazis came to search her house, later said, "Pastor always taught us that there comes a time in every life when a person is asked to do something for Jesus. When our time came, we knew what to do."

The habits of the heart are there when they are most needed. What about your habits? Are they the ones that will guide and sustain you when courage in the midst of challenge and adversity is required?

--Beecher Hunter