

The Soldier & the Priest



A priest was walking down a road in pre-revolutionary Russia when a soldier stopped him, aiming his rifle at him and commanded, “Who are you? Where are you going? Why are you going there?” Unfazed, the priest calmly responded, “How much do they pay you?”

Surprised, the soldier replied, “Twenty-five kopecks a month.” The priest paused and in a deeply thoughtful manner, said “I have a proposition for you. I’ll pay you fifty kopecks each month if you would stop me here every day and challenge me to respond to those same three questions.”

How often do we have a “soldier” in our lives to stop us from what we are doing and confront us with these same three questions? What is our response to those questions? Can we pause long enough to consider our internal response to these questions?

