

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:35,856

2  
00:00:35,856 --> 00:00:37,400  
[MUSIC PLAYING]

3  
00:00:37,400 --> 00:00:39,800  
From time to time  
all over New England,

4  
00:00:39,800 --> 00:00:43,610  
we gather at our town hall to  
hammer out the public opinion

5  
00:00:43,610 --> 00:00:44,570  
in meetings like this.

6  
00:00:44,570 --> 00:00:51,150

7  
00:00:51,150 --> 00:00:53,700  
Sometimes the meetings  
get out of hand,

8  
00:00:53,700 --> 00:00:57,200  
and we argue back when the  
moderator raps for order.

9  
00:00:57,200 --> 00:01:00,810  
But we like it that way because  
we figure we elected him

10  
00:01:00,810 --> 00:01:02,200  
to the job in the first place.

11  
00:01:02,200 --> 00:01:06,620

12  
00:01:06,620 --> 00:01:08,300  
This particular  
meeting was pretty

13  
00:01:08,300 --> 00:01:11,750  
much like all the rest except  
that the moderator called

14  
00:01:11,750 --> 00:01:14,420  
on Joseph.

15  
00:01:14,420 --> 00:01:18,020  
Joseph was self-conscious, and  
I had to persuade him to speak.

16  
00:01:18,020 --> 00:01:21,620  
This was Joseph's first  
town meeting, his first

17  
00:01:21,620 --> 00:01:23,690  
and his last.

18  
00:01:23,690 --> 00:01:27,980  
Six months before, Joseph had  
been a stranger to Cummington.

19  
00:01:27,980 --> 00:01:29,900  
As Joseph's minister,  
I felt I had

20  
00:01:29,900 --> 00:01:32,750  
come to know him a little better  
than others had in those six

21  
00:01:32,750 --> 00:01:33,950  
months.

22  
00:01:33,950 --> 00:01:37,700  
And watching him speak  
as a neighbor and friend,

23  
00:01:37,700 --> 00:01:41,030  
I was remembering the day  
Joseph arrived with his wife

24

00:01:41,030 --> 00:01:42,350  
Anna and the others.

25  
00:01:42,350 --> 00:02:29,630

26  
00:02:29,630 --> 00:02:34,690  
I had heard of these refugees  
at a conference of ministers.

27  
00:02:34,690 --> 00:02:36,730  
They needed a place to live.

28  
00:02:36,730 --> 00:02:43,870  
My church had a house standing  
vacant, and I had an idea.

29  
00:02:43,870 --> 00:02:48,790

30  
00:02:48,790 --> 00:02:52,090  
Perhaps the refugees could have  
found another place to live,

31  
00:02:52,090 --> 00:02:54,910  
and undoubtedly the good  
people of Cummington

32  
00:02:54,910 --> 00:02:57,790  
would have preferred  
it that way.

33  
00:02:57,790 --> 00:02:59,710  
But then that's what  
gave me the idea.

34  
00:02:59,710 --> 00:03:15,040

35  
00:03:15,040 --> 00:03:18,670  
The first night, what do  
people do the first night

36

00:03:18,670 --> 00:03:19,810  
in a strange house?

37

00:03:19,810 --> 00:04:27,600

38

00:04:27,600 --> 00:04:31,680  
Certainly you don't want to talk  
to anyone, so I said good night

39

00:04:31,680 --> 00:04:34,080  
and went home to work  
on my sermon for Sunday.

40

00:04:34,080 --> 00:04:41,880

41

00:04:41,880 --> 00:04:45,660  
Sunday was clear, a  
good day for church

42

00:04:45,660 --> 00:04:48,570  
because we like to make  
a social event out of it.

43

00:04:48,570 --> 00:04:52,410  
It's a close community feeling  
we have about our churches.

44

00:04:52,410 --> 00:04:54,960  
We like to stand around and  
chat before the service.

45

00:04:54,960 --> 00:05:00,243

46

00:05:00,243 --> 00:05:01,660  
That's me with the  
blind organist.

47

00:05:01,660 --> 00:05:05,240

48  
00:05:05,240 --> 00:05:09,330  
Sometimes I think it's too  
close, almost parochial.

49  
00:05:09,330 --> 00:05:12,440  
But maybe that's because  
originally hundreds of years

50  
00:05:12,440 --> 00:05:17,270  
ago, our communities were  
built around the church.

51  
00:05:17,270 --> 00:05:21,110  
First church in  
Cummington, 1780.

52  
00:05:21,110 --> 00:05:27,930  
First house seven  
years later, 1787.

53  
00:05:27,930 --> 00:05:30,090  
Almost before I had  
begun my sermon,

54  
00:05:30,090 --> 00:05:32,250  
I heard a commotion  
in the balcony

55  
00:05:32,250 --> 00:05:36,210  
and looked down to see  
the refugees filing in.

56  
00:05:36,210 --> 00:05:40,590  
Late, of course, as the  
widow Susanna Archer said.

57  
00:05:40,590 --> 00:05:43,320  
I was moved because  
I knew they came

58  
00:05:43,320 --> 00:05:46,170  
from many different

churches and denominations--

59

00:05:46,170 --> 00:05:50,250

Catholic, Jewish, Protestant--  
and I took it as a gesture

60

00:05:50,250 --> 00:05:51,910

to me.

61

00:05:51,910 --> 00:05:56,790

So I began again taking  
my text from Leviticus.

62

00:05:56,790 --> 00:06:01,200

The stranger that dwelleth with  
you shall be unto you as one

63

00:06:01,200 --> 00:06:04,945

born among you, and thou  
shall love him as thyself.

64

00:06:04,945 --> 00:06:07,940

65

00:06:07,940 --> 00:06:10,490

I was sure it helped the  
lonely feeling of the refugees.

66

00:06:10,490 --> 00:06:16,270

67

00:06:16,270 --> 00:06:19,530

I wasn't so sure about the  
townspeople of Cummington.

68

00:06:19,530 --> 00:06:26,260

69

00:06:26,260 --> 00:06:27,670

Only time would tell.

70

00:06:27,670 --> 00:06:42,510

71  
00:06:42,510 --> 00:06:45,030  
Toward the end of the service,  
I noticed one incident

72  
00:06:45,030 --> 00:06:46,619  
that gave me some hope.

73  
00:06:46,619 --> 00:06:49,373  
[SINGING]

74  
00:06:49,373 --> 00:06:59,280

75  
00:06:59,280 --> 00:07:02,880  
I guess with the music and  
all, it was too much for Anna.

76  
00:07:02,880 --> 00:07:11,020

77  
00:07:11,020 --> 00:07:14,650  
But when I heard about Joseph's  
visit to the grocery store,

78  
00:07:14,650 --> 00:07:19,440  
I began to realize sermons  
take a while to sink in.

79  
00:07:19,440 --> 00:07:22,230  
It seems he ran smack  
into the old stove

80  
00:07:22,230 --> 00:07:27,520  
league, most exclusive club  
in America and another place

81  
00:07:27,520 --> 00:07:29,520  
where the boys carve  
out public opinion.

82

00:07:29,520 --> 00:07:36,140

83

00:07:36,140 --> 00:07:39,430

Everyone went right on  
doing what he was doing,

84

00:07:39,430 --> 00:07:43,070

and Joseph felt at first like  
no one knew he was there.

85

00:07:43,070 --> 00:07:46,780

But that wasn't true because  
the minute his back was turned,

86

00:07:46,780 --> 00:07:51,050

they looked up curious as  
kittens and Joseph knew it.

87

00:07:51,050 --> 00:08:02,030

88

00:08:02,030 --> 00:08:04,580

I've given a lot of  
thought to that day,

89

00:08:04,580 --> 00:08:08,810

and I'm sure the boys were just  
as self-conscious as Joseph.

90

00:08:08,810 --> 00:08:12,350

The trouble was no  
one knew how to begin

91

00:08:12,350 --> 00:08:13,660

how to make the first move.

92

00:08:13,660 --> 00:08:20,940

93

00:08:20,940 --> 00:08:24,980

So I realized I'd have to make  
the first move myself, take



94  
00:08:24,980 --> 00:08:27,530  
people by the arm and  
lead them together.

95  
00:08:27,530 --> 00:08:31,600

96  
00:08:31,600 --> 00:08:34,760  
Peter, one of the refugees, had  
been a printer of fine books,

97  
00:08:34,760 --> 00:08:37,630  
art editions back in Austria.

98  
00:08:37,630 --> 00:08:39,610  
So I took them out to  
the Cummington Press

99  
00:08:39,610 --> 00:08:40,559  
to meet Jim Orchard.

100  
00:08:40,559 --> 00:08:47,230

101  
00:08:47,230 --> 00:08:49,870  
I knew Jim could understand  
the old man's desire

102  
00:08:49,870 --> 00:08:51,130  
to get back to his craft.

103  
00:08:51,130 --> 00:09:02,517

104  
00:09:02,517 --> 00:09:04,350  
It wasn't hard to tell  
that he had been away

105  
00:09:04,350 --> 00:09:07,440  
from his work for  
a long, long time.

106  
00:09:07,440 --> 00:09:10,530  
For all his politeness,  
he couldn't keep his hands

107  
00:09:10,530 --> 00:09:11,250  
off the presses.

108  
00:09:11,250 --> 00:09:20,100

109  
00:09:20,100 --> 00:09:23,610  
So Jim agreed to take  
Peter under his wing.

110  
00:09:23,610 --> 00:09:27,060  
And as I left, Jim was already  
promising to take Peter over

111  
00:09:27,060 --> 00:09:31,350  
to see the collection of books  
at the Bryant Memorial Library

112  
00:09:31,350 --> 00:09:32,820  
across the meadow  
from the press.

113  
00:09:32,820 --> 00:09:40,990

114  
00:09:40,990 --> 00:09:43,000  
The great American  
poet's house has

115  
00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:45,700  
been kept as it  
was the day he died

116  
00:09:45,700 --> 00:09:49,950  
with his own collection of  
fine editions and manuscript.

117

00:09:49,950 --> 00:10:10,000