

A Christmas Story?

December 21, 2003

There it was ... right on the front page of our local newspaper. The ugly headline announced in large black ink, "Bargain hunters throw elbows at the RDF". My oh my, first of all these things aren't supposed to happen in Wellesley ... never mind at the town "dump" (the non politically correct term for the Recycling and Disposal Facility) ... never mind these type of stories aren't supposed to happen at Christmas!

Here's the scoop - according to the paper, "Recently, three men were arrested at the RDF ... witnesses told police that a fight broke out after one man at the swap area criticized the three suspects for cutting in line. When another man spoke up against what he saw as unfair behavior, he was allegedly beaten to the ground." Amazing huh, a fistfight among supposed adults over acquiring recycled products. What does this happen to do with Christmas?

I'll tell you. That baby in the manger came to address the very type of behavior that these men exhibited at the RDF. The reality of our life is that every single human on this planet is born with a sin nature. As a good friend reminded me, "Isn't it interesting that no one has to teach a little child to be selfish." And selfishness was obviously what was at stake in this Christmas fight at the Wellesley RDF.

Jesus came to our planet to save us from this selfishness. He quite literally was born to die - die for our sins, die for our selfishness... We need to acknowledge this by inviting Him into our lives as both Lord and Savior. We need to renounce and repent of our sins, our selfishness ... and hopefully, we can then stop beating each other - whether it's at the town dump or in the secret chambers of our hearts.

So yes, this is a Christmas story - grace and mercy and love is the core of the Christmas story ... but only if we allow it to be.

Merry Christmas one and all!