



Part 1 – Reformation or Revolution?

What does Jesus mean when he tells his followers to take up their cross and follow him? What kind of religion is that? Why would anyone be willing to do that? The answer might be more powerful and compelling than you expect.

Ice Breaker

If you had a time machine, would you go back in time or into the future... When would it be and Why?

Introduction

We are all being formed by many influences in our lives. What are some of the strongest voices in your life and how do they change the way you think, feel, and act?

Read Matthew 16:21-26

What do you think it means to take up your cross and follow Jesus? There may be more than one answer, discuss different responses and how they contribute to being a follower of Jesus. How do the disciples respond to this invitation? Why do you think they aren't receptive initially? What are some reasons why we might not be receptive to Jesus' invitation?

John Howard Yoder wrote: *"The church is an alternative to culture. It is not otherworldly or anti-worldly; it is new-worldly."* What do you think he meant? Do you agree or disagree? In what ways does this quote help us think about what it means to follow Jesus in our context?

Moving Forward

On Sunday, Dave challenged us to think about whether we just want a little reformation or if we're willing to join a revolution. In what areas of your life does that convict or challenge you to make a change? Is there one step that you could take to live out the revolutionary way of Jesus?

Prayer

As you think about areas in which you seek to follow Jesus, share prayer requests related to how you can practically live out the invitation that Jesus gives us.

2023 Exercise: If you haven't already, go to Westside's YouTube channel and watch our video from January 1 with John and Christie Latta. On our website you can click the banner and answer this question: After talking time to pray and listen to God, I believe he is inviting us as a church into _____.