



A Revolutionary Life: The Radical Act of Following Jesus

Exodus 1:9-22; Mark 8:34-36

OPEN

What comes to mind when think of the words *revolution* or *revolutionary*?

What do your responses have in common?

DISCUSS

A revolutionary's life can take many forms. Sometimes bigger-than-life and dramatic. Sometimes revolutionary acts are small and simple. At the heart of this study is the idea that a revolutionary life comes from doing the things Jesus did as his followers (ref. 1 John 4:17). When we follow Jesus we become part of the "Kingdom Revolution" that brings transformation to the world God's loves for his glory.

Read the Scripture passages above for this study.

- Where do you see signs of revolution in these passages?
 - Does the idea of revolution "fit" these verses in your opinion? Why or why not?
- Was Jesus a revolutionary leader? Explain.
 - How was his "revolution" different than what the Jews (nation of Israel) was hoping for?
 - Think about the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus.
 - List as many revolutionary values as you can that Jesus taught and lived.
 - Are these similar or different than the dominant culture of HIS day?
 - Are these similar or different than the dominant culture of YOUR day?



God's salvation of Israel (Exodus) was deliverance and salvation from slavery. This was literal slavery and oppression and we still see this form of slavery around the world today. Yet in America, slavery in recent decades has taken on more subtly forms.

- How and where do you see people (even yourself) *enslaved* today?
- Is this enslavement voluntary or against the wills of people? Explain?

Comment on the four characteristics of revolutionaries (below) outlined in the weekend sermon. Explore how these characteristics can be lived as a Christian (follower of Jesus) to one or more of the examples your group listed in the previous question.

1. **Know** God (you cannot respond and react to you what you do not know; you cannot trust the leadership of a God you do not know)
2. **Refuse** to be ruled by fear
3. **Defy** the systems of injustice, narcissism, consumerism (etc.) that rule the day
4. **Defend** community and common good rather than turning toward individualism. No revolution succeeds solo. It takes a community (church) with shared beliefs to turn the tide of history/culture.

YOUR NEXT STEP...

- Reflect on your life as *revolutionary* in the kingdom of God and follower of Jesus.
- Where do you have opportunity right now to be God's agent of freedom--creating life-changing ripples in the places you are planted and with the people in your life?