



Message Topic: Sophie Scholl and the Beauty of Resistance

Message Date: November 15, 2020

Focus: The beauty of non-violent resistance of evil, regardless of the cost

Primary biblical texts: Daniel 1

Introduction

Our goal is to engage in conversations about the beautiful life that Jesus has called us to live. Each week, we will be unpacking an element of this life. Each topic is paired with a historical figure who will show us one way to embody each week's topic.

Purpose of Community Groups

To engage with the ideas and scripture presented in the messages, to build connections with each other, and apply what we have learned to our lives.

Gathering

(To help people get to know each other.)

Mixer Question

Choose a group of these for your mixer question this week or make up your own. Use the chat feature or write on and then hold up a piece of paper to show preferences.

Do you prefer...?

- Pizza or tacos
- Relaxing on a beach or hiking in the mountains
- Swimming pools or natural water (rivers, oceans, lakes)
- Watching sports or playing sports
- Salty snacks or sweet snacks
- Documentaries or sitcoms
- Coffee or tea
- Reading the book or seeing the movie
- Rock band concerts or symphonies
- Quiet or loud
- Shoes or barefoot
- Gloves or mittens
- Cooking or washing dishes
- Christmas decorations: before or after Thanksgiving
- Real books or e-books
- Summer or winter
- Ketchup or mustard on a hotdog

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LIVES THAT SHOW THE GOSPEL

Message Content

Review Message

Christian shared this week about Sophie Scholl, a German college student whose faith during World War II inspired her resistance to the Nazi regime, but ultimately led to her death for her resistance. Christian also unpacked the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, highlighting the dangers of an empire's natural tendency to form its people to think in a particular way instead of God's way. Both Sophie Scholl and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego teach us that God calls us to conscious resistance to the attempts of empires to shape our understanding of what is right and wrong in the world. We are to resist wrong. It might cost us something, potentially everything, but that shouldn't stop us. We should continue to seek to stand for what God says is right, because God is with us as we do so. Standing up to evil is what God did on the cross, and it is our responsibility to stand with God against evil, pointing to him as the "Good Shepherd of our souls." Evil will not have the last word, God will.

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you during this message?
2. Christian names two world views that shape us to accept as true, "Put yourself first" and "Hate your enemies." What are some other world views that we are taught to be true?
3. What is the difference between standing up to evil like Sophie Scholl and loving your enemies like Jesus commanded us to? Can these both be practiced at the same time?
4. Can you love the evil-doer and hate their evil?
5. What does it mean to stand up to evil?

Scripture Study

Read Psalm 1

1. We cannot begin to know what is evil unless we learn from God what is good. What does the Psalmist teach us?
2. The Psalmist describes someone who learns about "good" from God as being like "a tree planted by water." Why might the author use this image to teach us about righteousness? How effective is it for you?
3. What would it look like to be planted like a tree near water in your own life? What is the water? How do you grow roots? Be practical, not theoretical.

Personal Reflection

1. Are you willing to give up power, money, and privilege to stand against the evil of the world? What are some of your hesitations around standing up to evil?
2. Each of us in this country has a different definition for what "evil" is. How do you stand up for what you think is right against evil when it conflicts with another Christian's view of what evil is? What is the standard?
3. As you think about the interactions and experiences that you have had with Jesus, what stands out as beautiful? How is Jesus inviting you to stand up to evil in your life?

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Challenge

1. Make a list of the things that you see as evil in the world. Share them with a friend, and ask the question together—“does this reflect what God thinks is evil?” Be honest, and ask for God’s help to learn what he thinks is good.
2. We are called to resist evil each day. Is there an area where God is calling you to resist and fight for good today?
3. Stop looking at what others are saying about “evil” and “good.” Pray for God to show you where you should get involved.

Prayer

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (Contemporary Prayer 21 from the *The Book of Common Prayer*)