

1. Connect

Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.

We are in our third week of exploring what it looks like to Oppose Injustice. Last week, Pastor Albert showed the devastating reality of what happens "When Sin Gets Franchised." In asking God to "open your eyes of your heart," where did you see systems perpetuating injustices in your community? Were there any forms of "off-brand Christianity" you personally needed to confess and surrender?

2. Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

As we continue opposing injustice, read Luke 9:23-25 together again as a LifeGroup.

²³ Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?"

As you read these passages of Scripture, what words, images, or sentences stand out to you? Spend a couple of minutes making your own observations about the scripture, then share those observations together as a group.

Discussion

Pastor Albert asked, "What does it mean for your life to be transformed by a cross-shaped love?" A cross-shaped love means to have a love marked by sacrifice and grows up to look like the cross. Jesus says if you want to be his disciple, there are three things you must do: (1) Deny yourself; (2) Take up your cross; (3) Follow me.

- Pastor Albert stated our culture today often plays with a concept of love that never grows up but instead stays immature, small, and self-serving. In your own life, how have you bought into this cultural message?

- As humans, our default nature is selfishness and sin, therefore we must develop a deep dislike for sin. In the moment, sin tastes like life, but it causes death to your soul. What are some things in your life that taste like life but are actually causing death to your soul?
- Another message the world gives us today is that we are the “star” of our life. As Christians, we believe our lives are not about us-- our lives are about God. Where are the places in your life where you’ve been the “star”? What would it look like to deny yourself?
- The current of the world will lead us to be us-shaped, not cross-shaped. If we as the Church want a real, grown-up love, we need to pick up the cross daily and follow Jesus. What are areas of your life you’re comfortable with “wearing” a cross but not actually carrying it?
- Pastor Albert used an analogy of being at the gym-- if we lift up heavy things, muscles start to come up. If we lift up our cross, love starts to come up. Resurrection comes after the crucifixion but crucifixion involves pain. What muscle area of denying yourself is underdeveloped?
- Jesus says, “Follow me.” As we follow Jesus’ way, he will always take us to places of injustice. His mission statement was to release the captives, give sight to the blinds, and free the oppressed. Pastor Albert said if we will *be* with Jesus, we will *do* justice. How can you put your energy not into what you *do* but who you *become* so that you embody and live out justice?
- Pastor Albert read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 over the church, reminding us of what love looks like when it grows up. What does it mean for your life to be transformed by a cross-shaped love this week? How can you love be marked by sacrifice and the cross?

3. Apply: Next Faithful Step

- Pastor Albert exhorted us with the image that when outsiders of the Christian community see the Church coming, they should say is, “Here comes Jesus.” As we strive to become cross-shaped Jesus followers, what is one way you can deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus this week?
- What’s one tangible step you can take this week to fight injustice? If this question feels overwhelming, consider joining the work our church is doing to fight injustice through

LOVE JUSTICE

LifeGroup Discussion Guide



Fellowship's global and local justice initiatives. You can find these on our website under "global missions" and "local missions."

**If anyone needs additional pastoral support or prayers regarding this sermon or any other aspect of our Love Justice series, please don't hesitate to reach out to our pastoral staff. We would love to chat more deeply and pray with you.*