

the  Venues  
Go Deep  
Ready for a Holiday?  
**What Do We Do With Columbus?**  
10.11.2020

*Do you think that Columbus should be honored? Should Columbus Day still be celebrated?*

*Do you prefer Columbus Day or Indigenous People's Day? Why?*

*What were you taught about Columbus as a kid?*

*What do you know now about Columbus that you didn't know then?*

A Dominican Friar, Bartolomé de las Casa, a member of Columbus' crew and a defender of the Indigenous Peoples wrote in his journal about the treatment of Native Americans, "Such inhumanities and barbarisms were committed in my sight as no age can parallel...My eyes have seen these acts so foreign to human nature than now I tremble as I write."

*Does his observation surprise you? Were you already aware of the atrocities committed by Columbus?*

The violence toward Native Americans was based on the Church's Edict of the Doctrine of Discovery which stated that Christian Nations became the rightful owner of any land occupied by "non-Christian" people. That "Doctrine" served as the basis for the establishment and expansion of the United States resulting in the atrocities committed against Native Americans.

*How can Christianity, named after one who taught "love your enemy" and the Golden Rule, be used as the basis of such terror?*

*What do you see happening today in the name of Christ that doesn't fit the person of Jesus?*

Read Luke 4:24-30. Jesus gave the people a history lesson, telling of how God blessed people outside of their group...people considered to be "the other" or "their enemies."

*Why did the congregation get so mad at Jesus?*

*What lesson is Jesus teaching the people of Nazareth?*

*How are the views of the congregation of Nazareth and of Columbus similar?*

Jesus taught the people that God does not belong to any one particular group.

*How is that lesson hard for some to grasp?*

*How will learning Jesus' lesson change you?*