**THEN & NOW: What does it mean to be responsible in a time:**

* 1. When foreign entanglements have depleted resources and divided the country?
  2. When citizens are exhausted and dispirited from never ending controversies?
  3. When the left and the right never really speak, and see each other as enemies?
  4. When the government is in chaos, and it is hard to know who’s in charge?
  5. When the military eats up more and more and more of the national budget?
  6. When certain groups – Jews, homosexuals, the physically-challenged – are constantly mocked and blamed for all the country’s troubles?
  7. When intellectuals, scientists, writers, critics of the government, and news organizations are marginalized, blamed for society’s fragmentation?
  8. When foreigners are increasingly unwelcome, and immigration slows dramatically?
  9. When more and more people long for a strong leader to take charge?
  10. When such a leader does surprisingly take charge, and becomes “a powerful and spellbinding speaker who attracts a wide following desperate for change, [promising] the disenchanted a better life and a new and glorious country”?
  11. When gradually the nation’s leader proclaims himself the highest overseer of the law and courts?
  12. When white supremacy and extreme nationalism take a more prominent role in daily life?
  13. When the leader has a favorite eye-catching airplane used to go from event to event?
  14. When the leader’s face is on the cover of Time magazine as person of the year?
  15. When loyalty to the leader becomes far more important than anything else?
  16. When the leader wraps himself in the flag, the Bible, and religiosity?
  17. When the leader considers never stepping down and staying in power?

**The time was the 1930’s, the place was Germany, the leader was Hitler.**

**Bonhoeffer’s family would never have believed in 1933 that this could describe their country; by 1942 it was all too clear that this is what Germany had become.**

**What would it look like to “act responsibly” as a Christian in such a time?**