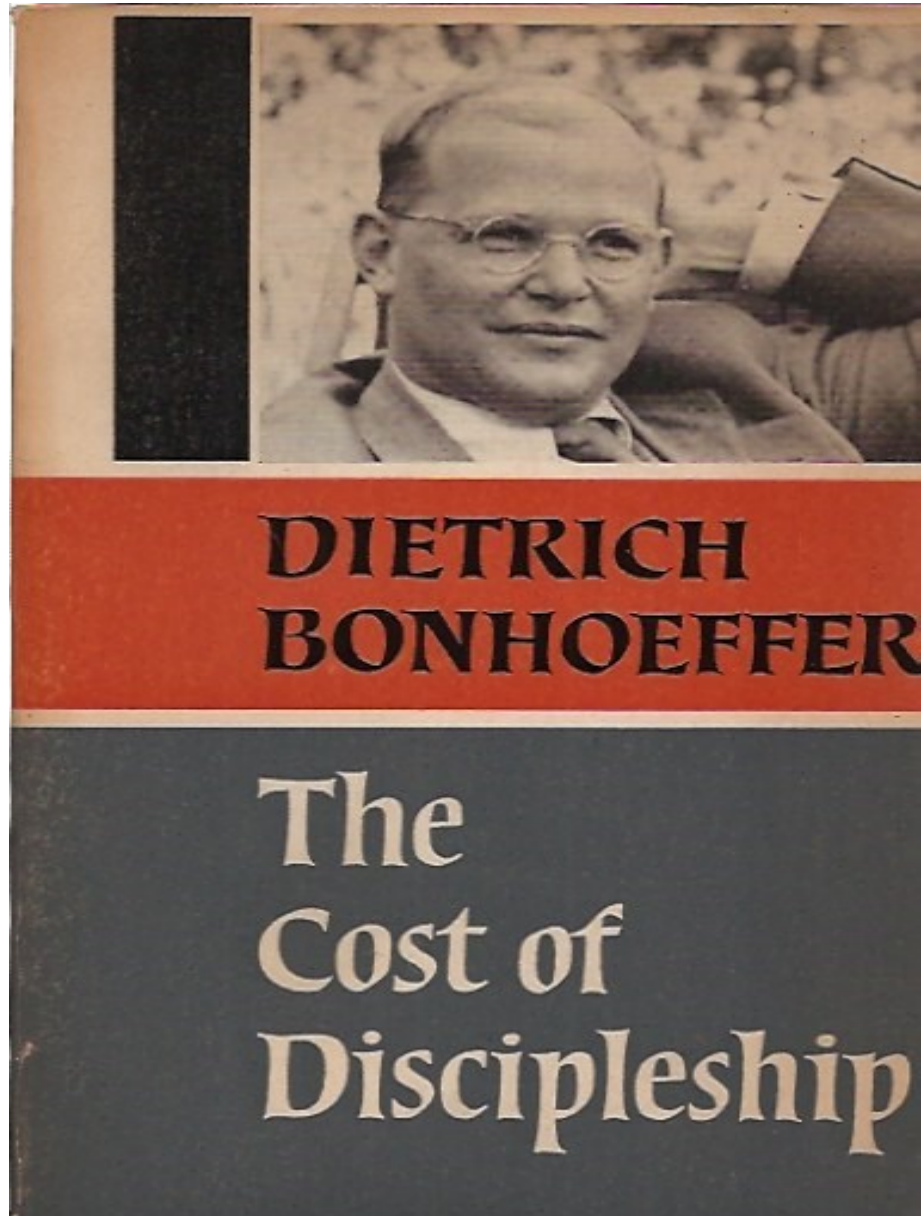


Christian Book Reports 2019

Christian Life Assembly The Journey Class

Jim Hoffman



The Cost of Discipleship

Deitrich Bonhoeffer

Who was Dietrich Bonhoeffer?

- **Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906 – 1945) was a German Lutheran theologian and pastor. He was also a participant in the resistance movement against Nazism. Bonhoeffer was involved in various schemes formulated by members of the German Military Intelligence Office to assassinate Adolf Hitler and in April 1943 was arrested, imprisoned and ultimately hanged in Flossenbuerg just before the end of the Second World War in Europe.**

Bonhoeffer's Perspective

As we look at some of Bonhoeffer's quotes from "The Cost of Discipleship" we need to bear in mind that he was contemplating the reality of having to die for Christ.

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“God is the beyond in the midst of our lives. The church stands not at the fringes of life where powers give out, but at the center of the village where its influence is most needed.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

2nd Cor 11:24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. 26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Luke 14:27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Rom 14:4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

NASB

The Cost of Discipleship

- “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Luke 14:25 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.” NASB

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“When all is said and done, the life of faith is nothing if not an unending struggle of the spirit with every available weapon against the flesh.”**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“Genuine grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Luke 9:61 61 Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” 62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“Grace is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life.”
Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Mark 8:36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? 37 For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

The Cost of Discipleship

- “Costly grace is costly because it condemns sin, and because it justifies the sinner.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Rom 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The Cost of Discipleship

- “Above all, it is costly grace because it cost God the life of his Son: ‘Ye were bought at a price’, and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

1st Cor 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? **20** *For you have been bought with a price:*
therefore glorify God in your body.

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“Above all, it is costly grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“Discipleship is not an offer that man makes to Christ.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Matt 4:19 And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." NASB

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“It is only because he became like us that we can become like him.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Phil 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“It is only because he became like us that we can become like him.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

“Christ became that which He was not (sin), so that we could become that which we are not (righteous).”

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“The disobedient cannot believe; only the obedient believe.”** Dietrich Bonhoeffer

John 14:15 If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“Fruit is always the miraculous, the created; it is never the result of willing, but always a growth. The fruit of the Spirit is a gift of God, and only He can produce it.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Psalm 1:3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season.

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“They who bear it know as little about it as the tree knows of its fruit. They know only the power of Him on whom their life depends” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“The will of God, to which the law gives expression, is that men should defeat their enemies by loving them.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Rom 12:20 “But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” NASB

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“The Christian must treat his enemy as a brother, and requite his hostility with love. His behavior must be determined not by the way others treat him, but by the treatment he himself receives from Jesus; it has only one source, and that is the will of Jesus.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Matt 7:12 “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“No sacrifice which a lover would make for his beloved is too great for us to make for our enemy.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Rom 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“Earthly goods are given to be used, not to be collected. In the wilderness God gave Israel the manna every day, and they had no need to worry about food and drink. Indeed, if they kept any of the manna over until the next day, it went bad.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“In the same way, the disciple must receive his portion from God every day. If he stores it up as a permanent possession, he spoils not only the gift, but himself as well, for he sets his heart on accumulated wealth, and makes it a barrier between himself and God.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Col 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

The Cost of Discipleship

- **“The messengers of Jesus will be hated to the end of time. They will be called crazy fanatics and disturbers of the peace. But the end is also near, and they must hold on and persevere until it comes.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

John 15:18 “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.”

Questions