

Why Following Jesus?

Mark 2:13-17

"Cheap grace is forgiveness without repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus."

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship)

"Costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus, it comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. It is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is costly grace because Jesus says: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light".

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship)

I. Jesus is a Better Teacher

II. Jesus is a Better Treasure

"There is a saving faith. This is called faith of the operation of God. It is a work of God's own Spirit in the soul. It is such a faith as rests and casts the soul wholly upon Christ for grace and glory, pardon and peace, sanctification and salvation. It is a united act of the whole soul, understanding, will, and affections, all concurring to unite the soul to an all-sufficient Redeemer. It is such a faith as purifies the heart and makes it clean. It influences and gives strength and life to all other graces. Now, whoever has this faith is a Christian indeed." (Mathew Meed, Almost Christian Discovered)

III. Jesus is a Better Friend

IV. Jesus is a Better Physician

Who am I? They often tell me...

Who am I? They often tell me...

Who am I? They also tell me...

Am I then really that which other men tell of?

Or am I only what I myself know of myself?

Who am I? This or the other?

Am I one person today and tomorrow another?

*Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
and before myself a contemplative weebegone weakling?*

Or is something within me still like a beaten army

Fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.

Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am thine!