

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP



THE BEATITUDES



- 🕒 *Blessed are the poor in spirit.* Bonhoeffer suggests that this isn't the divinization of voluntary property. Rather we are called to renounce our attachments not only to earthly riches but to voluntary poverty as well. Not only to sin but to our own virtue. We are to lay everything down, without exception, allowing our only attachment to be to the man Jesus Christ.
- 🕒 What do you think of this? What does it mean to accomplish this level of detachment?

THE BEATITUDES

- 🕒 *Blessed are those who mourn.*
- 🕒 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.*
- 🕒 Again, this is not the divinization of going about hungry, thirsty, and sad. It's rather a statement that if we do feel fully satisfied in this world we have fallen into delusion. If we truly belong to Christ and see the world through his eyes we see one that is lacking in righteousness and justice. What do you think of this? How do we put it into action without becoming self-righteous?





THE BEATITUDES

- 🕒 *Blessed are the meek and Blessed are the merciful.*
- 🕒 In the promised restoration, all those who not only renounced their claim to personal rights but even took upon themselves the shame and guilt of others will find themselves not only forgiven but blessed with treasure beyond imagination.
- 🕒 But are meekness and mercy always passive? What is called from us when it is others (Children? Elders? Neighbors? People halfway around the world?) who are suffering injustice?

THE BEATITUDES



- 🕒 *Blessed are the peacemakers.*
- 🕒 Not just “blessed are the peaceful,” but “blessed are the peacemakers.” This blessing is reserved for those who actively make peace. How do we, in our time and place and faithfully following the call of Jesus, actively make peace?

THE VISIBLE COMMUNITY



You are the salt of the earth.

The die is cast: if the Church is indeed the community of Christ's disciples, we are the salt. We are what cleanses and preserves the earth. This isn't a matter for self-glorification, just a statement of the mission with which Christ has entrusted us.

How do we be salt in our whole existence?

THE VISIBLE COMMUNITY



- 🕒 *You are the light of the world.*
- 🕒 Once again it's a clear and simple statement of who we are. We have no choice to be otherwise. We must be clearly visible and in the world's crosshairs simply by nature.
- 🕒 How do we practice that visibility (and vulnerability) without grandstanding?

THE VISIBLE COMMUNITY

Probably coming from our roots in the state Church of England, we tend, as the Episcopal Church, to blend in well with the world around us.

What might it look like to be more obviously visible in our context, not for its own sake but in faithfulness to Christ?