

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP



THE HIDDENNESS...

🕒 ...of righteousness:

We are called to a level of holiness and righteousness that is nothing short of extraordinary.

But it is to be a subtle extraordinary righteousness, hidden in plain sight.

It certainly must be visible, but the visibility can never be its motivation.





THE HIDDENNESS...

🕒 ...of righteousness

What are some times you believe you have witnessed this sort of extraordinary yet hidden righteousness?

What are some of the obstacles we face? How do we engage them?

THE HIDDENNESS ...

🕒 ...of prayer

Prayer too is something that, while it should be constant in public and in private, needs to remain in a sense hidden.

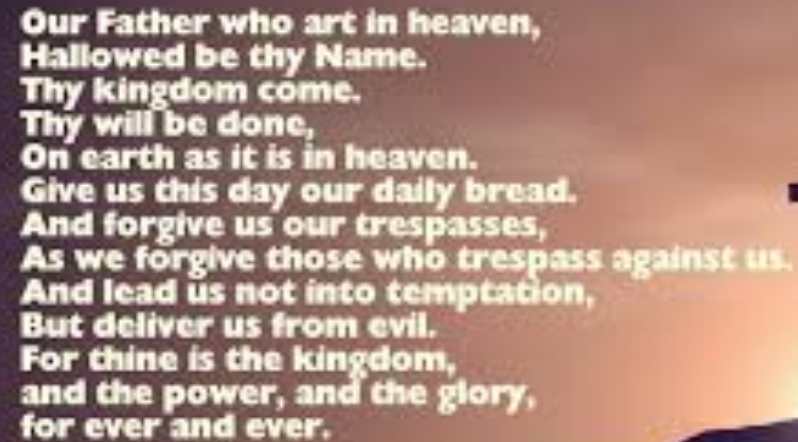
That doesn't mean it can't be seen by others. But it can't be done for the purpose of being seen by others.

Pure prayer, prayer that is an expression of extraordinary righteousness, is the unfettered, unedited cry of a longing heart or gratitude of a joyful heart to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

- 🕒 What stanzas of the Lord's Prayer stand out the most to you?
- 🕒 What are your responses to Bonhoeffer's unpacking of the prayer?



**Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

THE HIDDENNESS ...



🕒 ...of the devout life.

Bonhoeffer (not to mention Jesus and Paul) state or imply that fully satisfied flesh is an obstacle to communion with God. What do you think of this?

If we do fast we are to do so in a hidden manner, but even this act of hiding must be done without attachment or self-aggrandizement.

How do we fast/mortify the flesh in a way that is a participation in the sufferings of Christ but not a self-serving imitation of them?

THE SIMPLICITY OF THE CAREFREE LIFE



- 🕒 Only a life unencumbered by anxiety about worldly goods and comforts can be dedicated to God.
- 🕒 This is as much about our relationship with time as it is about our relationship with possessions:

C. S. Lewis in the Screwtape Letters stated that the devil's greatest work happens when our minds are focused on the future. The present is where we will find God, and perhaps even in the past, but in worrying about the future we are completely separated from God. What do you think of this?

THE SIMPLICITY OF THE CAREFREE LIFE

Bonhoeffer rightly points out that Jesus does not mean we can have absolutely no dealings with the world and especially that the poor cannot concern themselves with working for their daily bread. He is not trying to starve his followers. He is giving them a commandment that leads to utter freedom, not to abject poverty.

How does this work? What are the hallmarks of our calling to this simple, carefree life in God?