

# THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

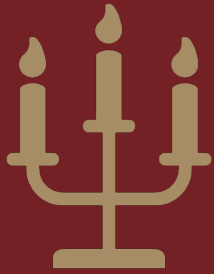


# THE DANCE OF FAITH AND OBEDIENCE



- ⌚ Without faith, we cannot rightly obey the commandments of Christ.
- ⌚ Without the act of obedience we can never truly receive grace and come to faith.
- ⌚ This seems to allow only one course of action: listen as best we can for what we believe to be the call of Christ, when we hear it obey with haste and without much wrangling, and see where that takes us.

# SOME CHALLENGING TEMPTATIONS



## Luke 9 offers some cautions:

We can be so eager to become disciples that we issue our own call to follow Christ rather than waiting on his.

We can allow a sense of righteous adherence to the law to get in the way of true discipleship.

We can try to negotiate the terms of discipleship, wanting to follow but only on our own terms and schedule.



**Are there moments in your life where you might have fallen into one of these patterns? How do we realign ourselves into a posture of true discipleship?**



# WHO EXACTLY IS THIS JESUS THE CHRIST?

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- ⌚ A master and teacher whose words are to be held in high esteem (think of the rich young man)?
- ⌚ A divine figure to whom we are to direct our worship (how we often seem to view him in church tradition and practice)?
- ⌚ A great leader worthy of our admiration?
- ⌚ A living Lord with whom we are called to have an active and obedient relationship?

# AND WHAT THEN IS OUR RESPONSE?



To seek counsel and clarity from Jesus?



To be pious and worshipful and bow before him?



To marvel at him?



To befriend him, trust him, wait upon him, and follow wherever he leads?

# THE IMPORTANCE OF LITERALISM

We often shy away from literal readings of Scripture and of Jesus' commands in order to avoid being too legalistic.

Bohoeffer suggests that if we completely dispense with literalism it actually winds us up in the worst sort of legalism.

What do you think of this?

# HOW CAN WE PRACTICE SINGLE- MINDED OBEDIENCE?



- 🕒 It's not simply a matter of copying the behavior of Christ's earliest disciples as recorded in the Bible.
- 🕒 It does, however, still mean paying attention to Jesus' literal commands.
- 🕒 How do we discern the calling voice which we must obey single-mindedly?