

IN TOUCH

WHAT DOES IT COST TO FOLLOW JESUS

Dear Friend:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Have you heard the name? Maybe you have but I would venture to say that most American Christians have not . Dietrich was a German Christian pastor and professor who stood against Hitler and the Nazis during World War II. As the Nazis began to rise to power Bonhoeffer was at first ambivalent about their rise and what they stood for. He preferred to stay out of any connection between the church and the State so he just went on about his life.

As the power of the Nazis grew, as Hitler killed more and more Jews and began controlling the churches in Germany Bonhoeffer could not remain silent in 1942 he actively (and at first secretly) began covert works to save Jews and the Church. In 1945 just a few weeks before Germany was defeated Bonhoeffer was hung and died in a Nazi prison camp. He wrote several books, the most well-known is: *The Cost of Discipleship*. The cost for Dietrich was literally his life. You and I will very, very likely never be called on to physically give up life our for the cause of Christ but make no mistake, Jesus does bid us to come and die for him.

One day Jesus was privately having a heart to heart talk with his disciples and Matthew records these words: “Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will loose it, and whoever looses their life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:38 & 39). Make no mistake taking up one’s cross is not a reference to a burden we bear but a reference of dying to ourselves. Jesus does bid us to come and die for him. Earlier in the passage he says if we love anyone (including family) more than him we are not worthy of being called his follower. Is there anything that you need to deny yourself of so that you can fully live for Jesus? I hope and pray you will pay the cost to follow Jesus.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Lyle Starr, Stan Eller, Recovering, COVID-19 People, Re-start of school, Mike & Heather Slagle