

## **Sermon Notes for 2/8:**

### **Bonhoeffer on Cheap Grace:**

“Cheap grace is grace as doctrine, as principle, as system...[it’s] preaching forgiveness without repentance; it’s baptism without the discipline of community; it’s the Lord’s supper without confession of sin; its absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without the living, incarnate Jesus Christ.

Is the price we are paying today with the collapse of the organized churches anything else but an inevitable consequence of grace acquired too cheaply...We poured out rivers of grace without end, but a call to rigorously follow Christ was seldom heard. When was the world ever Christianized more dreadfully and wickedly than here? The word of cheap grace has ruined more Christians than any commandment about works.”

### **Bonhoeffer on Costly Grace:**

“Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field, for the sake of which people will go and sell with joy everything they have. It is the costly pearl, for whose price the merchant sells all that he has; it is Christ’s sovereignty, for the sake of which you tear out an eye if it causes you to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ which causes a disciple to leave their nets and follow him.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which one has to knock. It is costly because it calls to discipleship; it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs people their lives; it is grace because it thereby makes them live.”

### **Rhett McLaughlin on leaving Evangelicalism:**

“Your kids are not leaving the church because you didn’t train them enough. Your kids are leaving the church because you trained them well enough to develop a sense for truth and justice. You let them read the words of Jesus - and they got it. And they’ve recognized that the church doesn’t seem to be interested in those words. They’re not leaving because they don’t know the truth, they’re leaving because they do.”

### **Shane Claiborne on young people leaving the church:**

“I am convinced that if we lose kids to the culture of drugs and materialism, of violence and war, it’s because we don’t dare them, not because we don’t entertain them. It’s because we make the gospel too easy, not because we make it too difficult. Kids want to do something heroic with their lives...But what do they do with a church that teaches them to tiptoe through life so they can arrive safely at death?”

### **Matthew 7:15-23**

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit...Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Not everyone who says to me,

‘Lord, Lord,

’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one

who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day,

‘Lord, Lord,

did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly,

‘I never knew you. Away from me, you

evildoers!’”

### **Bonhoeffer on becoming Christian**

“Blessed are they who already stand at the end of the path on which we wish to embark and

perceive with amazement what reality seems inconceivable: that grace is costly, precisely because it is pure grace, because it is God's grace in Jesus Christ. Blessed are they who by simply following Jesus Christ are overcome by this grace, so that with a humble spirit they may praise the grace of Christ which alone is effective. Blessed are they who, in the knowledge of such grace, can live in the world without losing themselves in it. In following Christ their heavenly home has become so certain that they are truly free for life in this world. Blessed are they for whom following Jesus Christ means nothing other than living from grace and for whom grace means following Christ. Blessed are they who in this sense have become Christians, for whom the word of grace has been merciful."