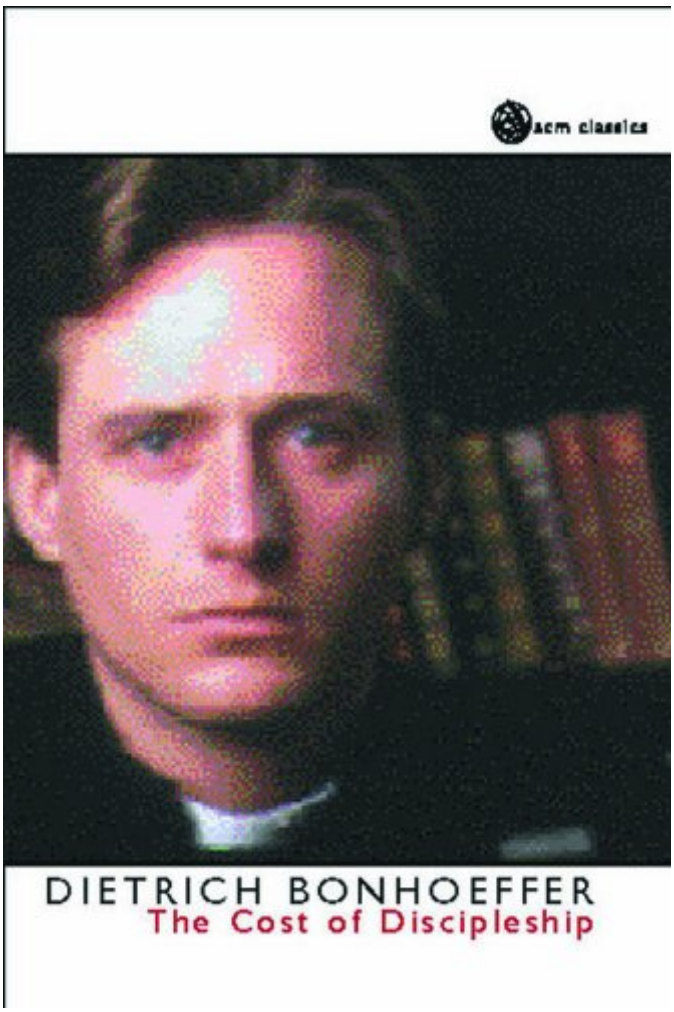
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The Cost Of Discipleship (SCM Classics)



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Synopsis

Before his arrest by the Nazis in 1943, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was head of a seminary of the German Confessing Church. In "The Cost of Discipleship", he focuses on the most treasured part of Christ's teaching, the Sermon on the Mount.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have not read the entire book but am deeply impressed by much of what I have read the Bonhoeffer has written. Histhoughts are deep and yet inspiring. It is very obvious that he was a man who wrestled with what it meant to be a disciple giventhat he died for his faith....one of the best written by Bonhoeffer and a fitting tribute to one of the Church's saints.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's journey of life is amazing and I found this book to be special for me. Bonhoeffer lets us know that choosing a life as a disciple of Christ is costly. It is costly because it calls us to discipline our lives in a way that most of us find rather conflicting to our desires. But choosing true discipleship means that we do not put our wants and needs ahead of the needs of

others. It means that we must love with not a divided heart but a single heart of love of God and then of course from that love we can love our neighbor as ourselves. He talks about grace as not being cheap and he opens us up to self examination of our own lives. I believe that he was in fact always self examining his life and his theology was always refreshing itself. This is a good book to read with others and dialogue about.

The tag line for this book is the author's statement, "When Christ calls a person, He bids him come and die". This is an excellent summary of what it means to be a Christian for those who understand what the author is saying. He is talking about a person's spiritual life, not his physical life. Although there are some Christians who have given their physical lives because of their faith, the calling that Bonhoeffer is talking about is a spiritual commitment. We are to give up our own self-focused thinking and living, when we live according to God's law. Jesus said we are to love God with all our heart, our soul, and our mind, and then to love our neighbor as our self. The practical implications of this are explained in terms of the teachings of Jesus. Those who do not live this commitment, are not in reality Christian in spite of what they may claim. It makes no difference how many "good works" we may do, or what we may claim in front of other people. Salvation is for God alone to judge with His perfect love and His perfect justice. His judgment is based on what is in the heart of each person. Bonhoeffer explains all of this with very clear and very straightforward language. The book is not exactly an "easy read", but it is certainly worth the effort.Freeman Rohlfing

Dietrich Bonhoeffer minces no words as he outlines "The True Cost of Discipleship." He was, by far and away, one of the most important theologians of the 20th century. Bonhoeffer defines discipleship as adherence to the Word of God. How this applies to teachers, businessmen, lawyers, salesmen, mothers etc. is explained using Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. We learn that discipleship done correctly is costly. It cost Bonhoeffer his life. "The Cost of Discipleship" is a great motivational as well as historical read.

A classic book for all who need to get serious about their walk with Christ. This book in every way confronts my pride and me falling on cheap grace. Even when I think I surrendered my life and will, the Holy Spirit is always there to remind me...compared to whom! This book is a must read and I pray that as you read it, God will grant us more of His true humility and grace to truly seek Him and surrender our all to Him. To love with with all our hearts, minds, soul and strength. Be blessed!

This is a classic of the Nazi era in Germany. How was it possible for a protestant tradion to survive the NAZI prosylty? By becoming an underground theology. He poses three kinds of German-Strong Anti-Nazi-Strong NAZI Zealot-Weak Compliant Submissive. He weaves the German Theological Tradition into a case of All or Nothing. Oppoisition to NAZI Dictatorship in a life or death struggle. His German prose is woven into a thrust of his reason. My Contest with GOD is the theme of his evolving Thought. He missed not being hung by 3 weeks. His last writings were Letters from Prison like a Biblical zealot. His life was one deserving Sainthood.

I had just finished reading "The Cost of Discipleship" and the one thing I am sorry about concerning this book is that I had not read it years ago. I have read and heard many discourses on "The Sermon on the Mount" but seldom have I ever had it presented so clearly as to make a practical application of it’s principles. But as Mr Bonhoeffer so clearly brings out, these teachings are not some nice neat little philosophy to contemplate, but a definite path or way of living that the individual needs to implement into their life by making a decision and taking a course of action. It is NOT the listening but the doing, that determines the choice of obedience. I am half way through my second reading and I have placed so many highlights and notes in the margins of this book that I may half to order a second copy. I bought the paperback copy but I also downloaded the Kindle edition. For me, very few books merit repeated readings, but "The Cost of Discipleship" is one book that I will be taking out and reading time and again.

"When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die". These words of Bonhoeffer are the grand theme of this miraculous theological work. This books calls upon every professed or confessed believer in Christ to examine him or herself. Bonhoeffer pulls no punches, and he has every right to do so. Focusing on the "sermon on the mount" Bonhoeffer calls on every christian not to just hear the sayings of Christ but to do them! There are few writers who can truly bring us into the presence of Christ, and this is what Bonhoeffer does in "The Cost of Discipleship".In these times of false teachings and "cheap grace" as Bonhoeffer puts it, this is a wakeup call for all christians. Certainly the greatest book I have read on what it means to be a follower of Christ.

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