

The Cost of Discipleship. 1995. 316 pages. Simon and Schuster, 1995. Dietrich Bonhoeffer. 9780684815008

Jesus first lays out two of the costs of discipleship (14:26-27); then, He gives two parables (14:28-32) that make the same overall point, namely, that a person must give careful consideration to the cost before he rashly jumps into it. Then He states a third cost of discipleship (14:33). He then (14:34-35) gives an illustration about salt to illustrate the cost of not truly following Him. He concludes by warning, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." The late theologian/philosopher, Francis Schaeffer, whose life and books have impacted thousands for Christ, was raised in a non-Christian home. After he became a Christian, his father did not want him to go to college and did not want him to become a minister, which young Fran felt called to be. Cost of Discipleship. In 1936, Bonhoeffer published *Nachfolge*. It would be later published in English as *The Cost of Discipleship*. In it he declares, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. In Christ, we are dead." In this book, Bonhoeffer spoke of the Christian life as the *Christusleben*, the life-in-Christ. This is truly living, truly being what God intended us to be. Sending us into the stratosphere, Bonhoeffer writes, "So heaven is torn open above us humans, and the joyful message of God's salvation in Jesus Christ rings out from heaven to earth as a cry of joy. The cost of discipleship 47. after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." The word. Follow him, and it interesting to study this word throughout the book.6 Not only. had the twelve followed him, but so had many others from both Judea and Galilee. Now Jesus makes it very clear what he was expecting from those who followed him. The cost of discipleship 51. point of death for Christ (and bear whatever indignation might come with following Christ) stands to lose.