

Becoming like Jesus in quiet service (Based on Chapter 14 of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea

Our trust in Jesus is revealed through our motives.

Biblical Foundation

Make certain you do not perform your religious duties in public so that people will see what you do. If you do these things publicly, you will not have any reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give something to a needy person, do not make a big show of it, as the hypocrites do in the houses of worship and on the streets. They do it so that people will praise them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. But when you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it. Then it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you. Matthew 6:1-4 (TEV)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer says, "All that the follower of Jesus has to do is to make sure that his obedience, following and love are entirely spontaneous and unpremeditated. If you do good, you must not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, you must be quite unconscious of it. Otherwise you are simply displaying your own virtue, and not that which has its source in Jesus Christ."

What happens if we become "conscious" of doing good?

The Cost of Discipleship

We must serve others even if it is inconvenient or unpleasant, even if no one will ever know, even if those we serve will never say "thank you."

Kingdom Thinking

- We serve others out of love.
- We serve others because we come beside Jesus and join his work.
- We serve others because it pleases God and it is how we can worship him.
- God knows what I do, even if no one else does. And that is all that matters.

How is it possible to serve people selfishly instead of selflessly?