

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TARENTUM BIBLE CLASS

PASTOR FELICIA DUNCAN BROCK, INSTRUCTOR

Discipleship—Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lesson #11—Discipleship and the Cross-Part II

A. Discipleship sometimes hurts (Psalm 69)

- Only when we have really forgotten ourselves completely, when we really no longer know ourselves, only then are we ready to take up the cross for his sake.
- The cross is not random suffering, but necessary suffering.
- Being shunned, despised, and deserted by people, as in the psalmist's unending lament is an essential feature of the suffering of the cross....

B. Joining Christ (Hebrews 13:12-13)

- The call to follow Jesus, baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, is death and life.
- The call of Christ and baptism leads Christians into a daily struggle against sin and Satan.
- So Christians would be broken by the weight if they were not themselves carried by him who bore all sins.

C. Bearing other's Sins (Galatians 6:1-2)

- As Christ bears our burdens, so we are to bear the burden of our sisters and brothers.
- The Law of Christ, which must be fulfilled, is to bear the cross.
- I cannot bear the burdens except by forgiving it, by the power of Christ's cross, which I have come to share. (Luke 23:34)

- Forgiving sins is the Christ-suffering required of his disciples. It is required of all Christians.

D. If He did, we should too (Matthew 10:24-25)

- Thus, suffering becomes the identifying mark of a follower of Christ.
- The disciple is not above the teacher.
- Those who do not want to take up their cross, who do not want to give their lives in suffering and being rejected by people, lose their community with Christ.
- But those who lose their lives in discipleship, in bearing the cross, will find life again in following in the community of the cross with Christ.