

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TARENTUM BIBLE CLASS

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Discipleship—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Lesson #14—Discipleship and the Individual-Part II

A. Love Him, not the world (1 John 2:15-17; John 3:16)

- There is no true knowledge of God's gifts without knowledge of the mediator, for whose sake alone they are given to us.
- There is no genuine gratitude for nation, family, history, and nature without a deep repentance that honors Christ alone above all these gifts.
- There is no genuine love for the world except the love with which God has loved the world in Jesus Christ.

B. Breaking with immediate relationships is inevitable. (Genesis 12:1)

- More than once (Genesis 15:5; 22:1-19)
- No one hears about that call from God, not even the servants who accompany Abraham to the site of the sacrifice.
- Abraham remains completely alone.
- He is prepared to make the secret break visible, for the sake of the mediator.
- At the same time, everything that he had given up is restored to him.
- Abraham receives his son back.

C. A different way than before. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- Abraham received Isaac back, but he has him in a different way than before.
- He has him through the mediator and for the sake of the mediator.
- Abraham comes down from the mountain with Isaac, just as he went up, but everything has changed.
- Abraham's faith became the role model for the New Testament. (Hebrews 11:8, 17; Romans 4)

D. He separates, but he also unites (Mark 10:28-31)

- Christ stands in the center between the other person and me.
- He cuts off every direct path to someone else, but he guides everyone following him to the new and sole true way to the other person via the mediator. [It's not that the relationship ends, necessarily; it's that it is changed.]
- Everyone enters discipleship alone, but no one remains alone in discipleship.
- Those who dare to become single individuals trusting in the word are given the gift of church-community.
- The promise for those who follow Christ is that they will be people of the mediator, people under the cross. (Mark 10:32)