

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TARENTUM BIBLE CLASS

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Discipleship—Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lesson #36—The Sermon on the Mount-Hidden Righteousness

Matthew 6: On The Hidden Nature of the Christian Life

A. Keep quiet (Matthew 6:1-4)

- The call to be extraordinary is the great, inevitable danger of discipleship.
- Therefore, beware of this extraordinariness, of the way that discipleship becomes visible.
- He gives a sting to extraordinary.
- Jesus calls us to reflection.
- The extraordinary is not supposed to happen in order to be seen.
- This means that the extraordinary deed should not be done for the sake of its being extraordinary.
- And it should not be seen just for the sake of being seen.
- Of course, what is extraordinary does have to become visible, it does have to happen, but—beware that you do not do it in order for it to become visible.
- “Let your light shine before the people...”, but: pay attention to the hiddenness! (Matthew 5:16)
- Chapters 5 and 6 collide hard against each other.

- What is visible should be hidden at the same time; at the same time both visible and not to be seen.
- The reflection we have mentioned, thus, needs to be guided so that we do not stray into reflection about our extraordinariness.
- Otherwise extraordinariness is no longer the extraordinariness of discipleship, but the extraordinariness of our own will and desire.
- From whom should the visibility of discipleship be hidden?
- Not from the other people, for they are to see the light of Jesus' disciples shining.
- Rather it should be hidden to those doing the visible deed of discipleship.
- They should keep on following Jesus, and should keep looking forward to him who is going before them, but not at themselves and what they are doing.
- The righteousness of the disciples is hidden from themselves.
- They see the extraordinary only when they look at Jesus, and in him they do not see it as extraordinary, but as something obvious and normal.
- Wo what is visible really is hidden from them, in obedience to the word of Jesus.