

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TARENTUM BIBLE CLASS

PASTOR FELICIA DUNCAN BROCK, INSTRUCTOR

Discipleship—Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lesson #37—The Sermon on the Mount-Hidden Righteousness (Part II)

Matthew 6: On The Hidden Nature of the Christian Life

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

- 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.

- What is visible really is hidden from them, in obedience to the word of Jesus.
- Because Jesus' disciples act in simple obedience to their Lord, they view the extraordinary as only the normal act of obedience.
- According to Jesus' word, the disciples can do nothing else but be the light that shines.
- How can the same thing be simultaneously visible and hidden?
- To answer we need only to turn back to the result of chapter 5. What is extraordinary and visible is the cross of Christ, beneath which the disciples stand.
- In simple obedience disciples do the will of the Lord who bids them do something extraordinary, and they know in everything only that they can do nothing else, that they are, therefore, doing what is simply a matter of course.
- If you do good, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. You should not know your own goodness.
- Otherwise it will really be your goodness, and not the goodness of Christ.