

On Your Mark  
“Follow The Leader”  
Lesson 7—On Your Mark  
MARK 8:31-38; 9:30-37; 10:32-45

Please listen to Episode 7 of “On Your Mark.”

Read together MARK 8:31-38; 9:30-37; 10:32-45

“Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks' wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap?...

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the

life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.

The upshot of it all is that my only duty as a Christian is to leave the world for an hour or so on a Sunday morning and go to church to be assured that my sins are all forgiven. I need no longer try to follow Christ, for cheap grace, the bitterest foe of discipleship, which true discipleship must loathe and detest, has freed me from that." [Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship](#)

Discussion Questions (pick 1-2 to spend more time with):

1. The term disciple means "a pupil, follower of adherent of any teacher or school of religion, learning, art, etc.." From this definition, do you think a person could be a true Christian and not be a disciple of Jesus Christ?
2. Jesus says in Mark 8:34 that we must deny ourselves. What does that mean to you? Read Romans 8:5-8. What does this say about dying to our old sinful self? Read Romans 6:11-13. How do we deny ourselves? Why is this so hard for us?
3. The disciples have been arguing (v.33). Jesus knew what the problem was (John 2:25). He doesn't rebuke them for wanting to be great. He teaches them about true greatness. Compare and contrast how the world defines greatness and what greatness looks like in The Kingdom.
4. If Jesus asked you to suffer for Him, would you? How would you endure suffering for Jesus? What would be your motivation?
5. Have you ever been afraid of asking Jesus any questions, for fear of His answers (vs. 33-34)?