

The Jesus Way #3:
The Narrow Path

Matthew 7:13-27
February 12, 2006

A Choice to Make

1. Two Gates and Two Paths

A Choice to Make

1. Two Gates and Two Paths
- 2. Two Types of Trees**

The Good Tree

“Real transformation is the test of the reality of the impact of the kingdom of heaven in a person’s life. The virtuous life of the kingdom of heaven that Jesus taught in the SM cannot be produced by a person who has not experienced the kingdom’s transforming power.”
[Michael Wilkins]

A Choice to Make

1. Two Gates and Two Paths
2. Two Types of Trees
- 3. Two Types of Disciples**

Lawless Disciples

“This is an individual who has confessed Jesus as Lord but whom Jesus knows has not truly repented as a condition for entering the kingdom of heaven.”
[Michael Wilkins]

A Choice to Make

1. Two Gates and Two Paths
2. Two Types of Trees
3. Two Types of Disciples
4. **Two Types of Builders**

The Proof of our Faith

³By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: ⁶the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked." (1 Jn. 2:3-6)

The Proof of our Faith

"Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes."
[Bonhoeffer, emphasis in original]

The Proof of our Faith

"One of the banes of present-day evangelical Christianity is the way we sit every week under the teaching of God's Word, or even have private devotions and perhaps participate in a Bible study group, without a serious intent to obey the truth we learn."
[Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace*]

The Proof of our Faith

"The proof that I am a follower of Jesus is that I follow Him." [Bill Hull]

Cheap Grace vs. Costly Grace

"Cheap grace means grace as a doctrine, a principle, a system. It means forgiveness of sins proclaimed as a general truth, the love of God taught as the Christian 'conception' of God. An intellectual assent to that idea is held to be of itself sufficient to secure remission of sins." [Bonhoeffer, p. 45]

Cheap Grace vs. Costly Grace

“Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly 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.”
[Bonhoeffer, p.47]

Cheap Grace vs. Costly Grace

“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. . .

Cheap Grace vs. Costly Grace

“Above all, it is **costly** because it cost God the life of his Son. . . 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.”
[Bonhoeffer, pp. 47-48, emphasis his]

Views of Grace

No Grace	Obedience as the means of earning God’s acceptance
Cheap Grace	Obedience as desirable but optional in the Christian life
Costly Grace	Obedience as the fruit and evidence of a transformed heart

Views of Grace

No Grace	Striving to achieve the impossible goal of pleasing God by our actions
Cheap Grace	No need to strive for anything since God demands nothing from us
Costly Grace	Seeking to live a God-honoring life out of gratitude and love for His grace

Views of Grace

No Grace	God is a demanding boss who is never satisfied with my efforts
Cheap Grace	God is a doting grandfather who gives me whatever I want
Costly Grace	God is my loving father whom I gladly love and serve

Views of Grace

No Grace	It's all about me: my efforts and achievements
Cheap Grace	It's all about me: God's purpose in life is to make me happy!
Costly Grace	It's all about God: I belong to Him and seek to bring glory to Him

Can we become like Jesus?

- The lie
- Our excuses
- Our problem

For further Reading...

- *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *The Discipline of Grace* by Jerry Bridges
- *Choose the Life* by Bill Hull