

Becoming like Jesus in trusting the Father (Based on Chapter 17 of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea

The things we worry about help us to see where we still need to trust Jesus.

Biblical Foundation

Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and robbers break in and steal. Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal. For your heart will always be where your riches are. Matthew 6:19-21 (TEV)

Jesus says our possessions reveal where our hearts lie. Jesus isn't suggesting a Christian must live in poverty; rather, he's talking about possessions that possess you. Are you prepared to give it away when asked?

Jesus teaches that God gives us possessions to use. Bonhoeffer says they are given to meet our needs, not for us to hoard. Our security comes from God, so hoarding is idolatry. Is it possible we undermine life together in Christian community by filling garages and storage units with things we could be giving to others?

Why don't we give things away and trust God when the next need arises? Do you think it is about worry (that the need won't be met) or dependence (that we want it when we want it and not when God gives it)?

How do we know the difference between the things we need to keep for legitimate use and those that represent an unnecessary accumulation of possessions?

Hint: Bonhoeffer says we only need reverse the words of Jesus: the place you will most want to be is the place where your treasure is.

Kingdom Thinking:

- I am worried about this. Jesus, show me why I am not trusting you.
- I feel like I have to buy more of these and stockpile them. Jesus, help me to remember how you have provided for me every time I needed something.
- Jesus, I need this (item) and I know you are aware of my need. Should I purchase it or will you provide it in another way?