

ELCG – Summer Devotional Series

“Voices of Faith”

Week of 15 August 2021 (#2)

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“If we follow Jesus and look only to his righteousness, we are in his hands and under the protection of him and his Father.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)¹

To live a carefree life is probably not something that most of us are used to, especially in the past few years. The pandemic has brought many worries, anxiety, and struggles of different kinds. People have lost beloved family members, others have lost their jobs, while others have not been in close contact with family or friends for a long time.

That was also my case. I lost my job as the pandemic was taking hold in Switzerland. Shortly after that, my father died, and I was not able to travel to Colombia for his burial. I was also limited by the inability to see my family and friends during the confinement in Geneva.

For some time, my wife and I stopped planning “things” for the future. There has not been much room for planning, but for waiting. We have been living more day by day.

In *The Cost of Discipleship*, Bonhoeffer reflects on different passages of the gospel according to Matthew and Jesus’ teachings that tell us: do not worry or be anxious about tomorrow, do not be afraid of what others can do to you, do not accumulate treasures on earth but in heaven. These, and other teachings, remind us that we depend each day only on God’s grace and mercy for us.



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The only sure thing during these times has been the constant presence of Jesus and his love shown also through our families, friends, and church community, by phone or video calls, chat messages, prayers, having breakfast or a snack by the lake or at the park.

We continue learning to follow and trust in Jesus’ love and care for us during these challenging times and to find rest and hope in his promises.

¹ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Simplicity of the Carefree Life*, in *The Cost of Discipleship*, Touchstone Ed., Simon & Schuster, New York, 1995.

I pray that you continue seeking Jesus first, above all, and trust in his faithfulness and abundant love for you.

Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? [...] But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
(Matthew 6:25, 33-34)

Questions for Reflection:

What in your life causes you to be anxious or to worry? How has your experience of living through the pandemic influenced your perspective on what is most essential in your life?

How does living through hardship teach us to more fully rely on Jesus?