

**Rev. Thomas Emery**  
***“Committed People” Matthew 16:21-28***  
***Salem Presbyterian Church***  
**Sunday, August 31, 2014**

The Christian martyr of World War II Germany, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, said it clearly when he wrote, "We have gathered like eagles around the carcass of cheap grace, and there we have drunk of the poison that has killed the life of following Jesus." You see, "Do you **believe** in Christ?" is not a difficult question to answer. Either you do or you don't. But when someone asks you, "Are you **following** Jesus?" the answer comes much harder, as Peter would later discover. Because this question has to do, not with what you believe, but with the way you live your life.

**TEACHING POINTS**

**Teaching Point One:** *Let us ask ourselves “Am I following Jesus or just believing in Christ?”*

**Teaching Point Two:** *The greatest temptation in life is to accept less than the best God has for us.*

**Teaching Point Three:** *There is a price in following Jesus, and it is worth the price.*

**THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE**

Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s” (Matthew 16:23 NLT).

**ACTION POINT**

Jesus tried to tell them He was going to Jerusalem to suffer, die and be raised again. They were visibly upset. What they failed to understand was that Jesus was a model to follow. Jesus would suffer and die, and in dying He would have life. When we give of ourselves for Christ's sake, when we witness to our faith, and even place ourselves at risk, we will find life. That's the Good News of the Gospel. Let us fall on our knees and make a commitment today to truly follow Christ.