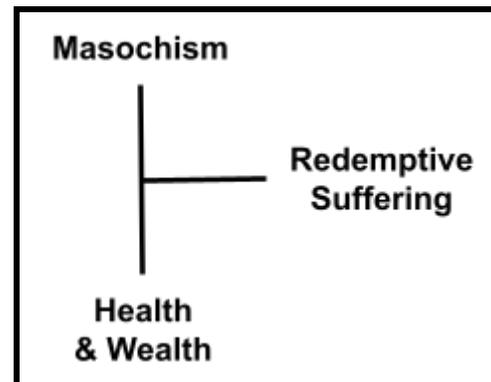
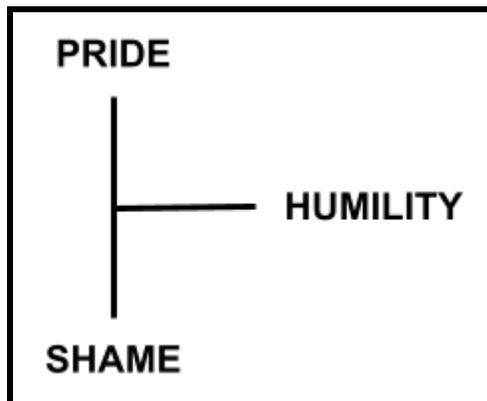


## MATTHEW 17, PART 1

### I) Review of Matthew 16:24-28

- For Dietrich Bonhoeffer, taking up his cross to follow Jesus meant suffering under the oppressive hand of the Nazis for the wellbeing of his people. Quotes from Bonhoeffer's, whose seminal work was *The Cost of Discipleship*:
  - “Cheap grace is preaching forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession...Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”
  - “I must live through this difficult period in our national history with the Christian people of Germany. I will have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war if I do not share in the trials of this time with my people.”
- For the apostle Paul, taking up his cross meant suffering for the sake of both the destruction of the flesh and new life in the Spirit (Gal. 5:24; Phil. 3:9-11; & Col. 3:3-5). Suffering is not an end unto itself but a way toward redemption.

### II) Suffering & Humility



*Our Lord indeed calls us to suffer! Yet we should not take pride in suffering for suffering's sake—this is called masochism. Nor should we find suffering shameful—this is the health & wealth gospel. Rather, we should suffer for the redemption of others (i.e., altruism). Welcome it when it comes, but let us neither seek it nor avoid it. Let us seek:*

- *Exaltation in humiliation*
- *Hope in despair*
- *Resurrection in crucifixion*

