

## **“Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy, Part 4”**

### **Adult Education Hour**

**Sunday, November 5, 2023**

- I. Welcome
- II. Introduction
- III. Prayer
  - A. Lord God, you have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses. Grant that we, encouraged by the example of your servant, Dietrich, may persevere in the course that is set before us, and, at the last, share in your eternal joy with all the saints in light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
- IV. “Come and Die” Video Clip 4 (23 minutes)
- V. Small Group
  - A. What struck you about Bonhoeffer while he was imprisoned?
  - B. Bonhoeffer was imprisoned, not only for joining in on the plot against Hitler, but for adding persecuted Jews. Bonhoeffer’s sister, Sabine’s daughters, faced this kind of treatment. For example, one little friend actually called out to Christiane over the fence, “Your father is a Jew.” One day a noticeboard was fixed to one of the trees in front of the school on which was written, “the Father of the Jew is the Devil.” According to this account, these kinds of events took place every day. Imagine that you or your children were subjected to this type of bigotry and persecution on a daily basis. How long would you tolerate it? Would you fight back or encourage your children to? Or would you hold your tongue? As a parent, would you take your kids out of the school? The country?
  - C. According to Metaxas, Bonhoeffer's “very engagement was his way of living out what he believed. He did everything, “Unto god.” Imagine if, we did everything “*unto God,*” or, put another way, “*as unto the Lord.*”

Think about areas of life that would be greatly affected if all our actions were “*unto God.*” What scenarios can you envision if we worked, played, and loved really “*living out*” what we believe?

- D. In 1939, all men born in 1906 and 1907 were ordered to register for the military. This presented a conundrum for Bonhoeffer. He couldn't declare himself a conscientious objector. To do so would be risking his life. Further, he mused, it would give Germans the impression that the entire Confessing Church agreed with that stance, and would give Confessing pastors the impression that they, too, should refuse to take up arms. On the other hand, fighting for Hitler's Germany seemed unconscionable.

We know what he finally decided, but this brings up the problem of war in present times. Is it wrong to fight in war? Does the command “Thou shalt not kill” apply to wartime? to self-defense? If not, should everyone be made to participate, if called upon? What about the conscientious objector? Should his or her participation be mandatory if that individual is going to live in the nation at war?

VI. Large Group

VII. Closing