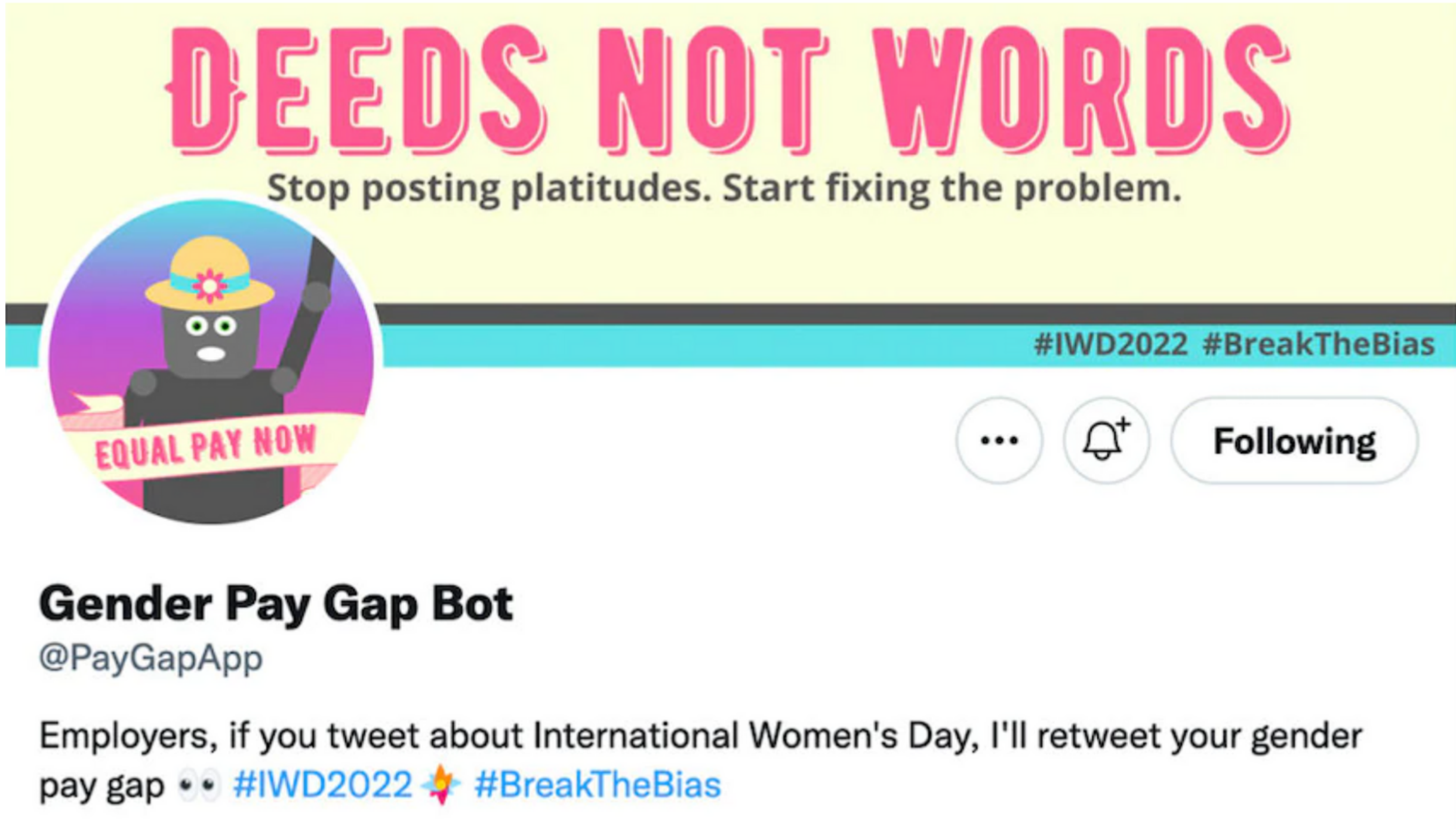


**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

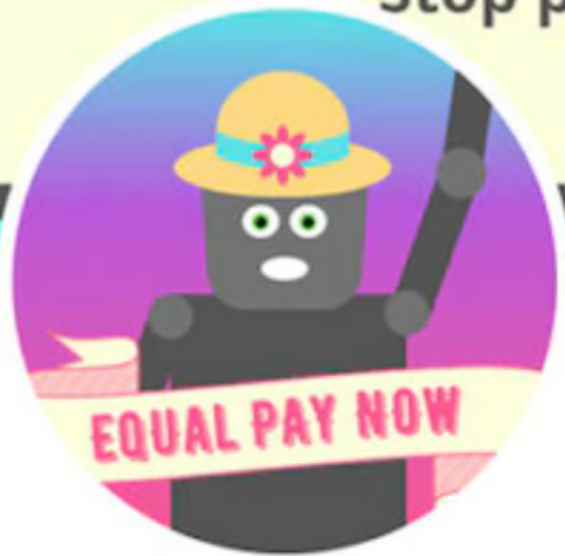
THE NECESSITY OF
EMBODIED ALLEGIANCE



COME
FOLLOW
ME



DEEDS NOT WORDS
Stop posting platitudes. Start fixing the problem.



#IWD2022 #BreakTheBias

... 🔔 Following

Gender Pay Gap Bot
@PayGapApp

Employers, if you tweet about International Women's Day, I'll retweet your gender pay gap 🙋 #IWD2022 🚀 #BreakTheBias


COME
FOLLOW
ME

 **Gender Pay Gap Bot**
@PayGapApp



In this organisation, women's mean hourly pay is 58.9% lower than men's. [@VirginAtlantic](#) #IWD2021

 **virginatlantic**  @VirginAtlantic

Today we're celebrating #InternationalWomensDay by announcing that two of our new planes will be named in honour of two fearless females 

1:10 PM · Mar 10, 2021



 21  Reply  Copy link

[Read 2 replies](#)

 **Gender Pay Gap Bot**
@PayGapApp



In this organisation, women's median hourly pay is 36.8% lower than men's.

 **Goldman Sachs**  @GoldmanSachs

This International Women's Day, we're celebrating the women across our global firm who lead with brilliance, passion and superpowers every day.

Throughout #WomensHistoryMonth you'll meet some of the women of Goldman Sachs and the qualities that make them exceptional. #IWD2022

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

The self that we are PROJECTING isn't always
willing to BE the self that we are projecting.

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

When we define the Christian life
as merely *believing* in Jesus...
when our gospel is “narrow”
and our response to the gospel is “narrow,”
we can give lip-service to following Jesus,
while never actually following Jesus.

p i s t i s = *a l l e g i a n c e*

- faith/belief
regarding something as true or real
- reliability, confidence, assurance,
fidelity, faithfulness, commitment,
and pledged loyalty.

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

ALLEGIANCE

Intellectual Agreement

Confession of Loyalty

Embodied Fidelity

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” **14** They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” **15** “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” **16** Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” **17** Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 16:13-17

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. **22** Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” **23** Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Matthew 16:21-23

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Matthew 4:8-10

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

Peter confesses his BELIEF in the King,
but is unwilling to FOLLOW (the way of) the King.

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must **DENY** themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

Matthew 16:24-26

“Denial” in the New Testament is the intentional disassociation from relationship with a particular person. Another translation, then, might be to “disown” or “renounce.”

Christy Grambell

“Denial” in the New Testament is the intentional disassociation from relationship with a particular person. Another translation, then, might be to “disown” or “renounce.”

Self-denial, then, is intentional disowning of the self, or stepping away from relationship with the self as primary. Jesus is not making a statement about whether the self is bad, but about who we are most closely associated with.

Who is our primary allegiance to – him, or ourselves?

Christy Grambell

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and **take up their cross** and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

Matthew 16:24-26

Crucifixion was reserved specifically for offenders who had rebelled against authority. To “take up one’s cross” referred to the practice of forcing a condemned person to carry the cross beam to his execution site. This showed that although he had rebelled against authority, the condemned person was now so completely conquered that his last act in life would be to carry the instrument of his demise to the place of his death. It was a show of complete and utter submission. A call to bear one’s cross as part of following Jesus, then, is a call to be as submitted to Christ as the condemned criminal was to his death.

Christy Grambell

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

Therefore, when Jesus calls for self-denial and cross-bearing, he's claiming authority. Following Christ means disowning the self and giving allegiance to him instead. And it means giving him allegiance down to the very depths of our being.

Christy Grambell

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

“TAKE UP YOUR CROSS” = ALLEGIANCE

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.** What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

Matthew 16:24-26

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

For whoever wants to FIND their SELF will lose it,
but whoever loses their SELF for me will FIND it.

Matthew 16:25

COME FOLLOW ME

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. **What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?** Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

Matthew 16:24-26

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

Give up trying to *find* and *define* and *center* your “SELF.”

Instead, DE-CENTER your “SELF”,
put it under my ALLEGIANCE, follow me,
and you’ll actually discover your **TRUEST SELF.**

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

I have been crucified with Christ.
It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

Galatians 2:20

"Through faith (*allegiance to Jesus the King*) and baptism (*a public confession that Jesus is Lord*) the self has been re-made in the image of "the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." ... The Spirit enters the citadel of the self, de-centers the self by fashioning it in the image of the self-giving Christ, and frees its will so it can resist the power of exclusion in the power of the Spirit of embrace."

Miroslav Volf

OBSERVATIONS

- Christ has done this completely, and invites us to follow
- This is an invitation to life, not drudgery.

INVITATIONS

- Embrace Self-Reflection
- Embrace Invitations to De-Center the Self
- Imperfection is expected, Jesus is a gracious teacher