

COME FOLLOW ME

THE NECESSITY OF
EMBODIED ALLEGIANCE



**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

[NARROW GOSPEL]

“Jesus died for my sins”

[NARROW RESPONSE]:

“I believe Jesus died for me...that settles it.”

[WIDE GOSPEL]:

“Pre-existence, incarnation, death, resurrection, ascension,
and future return”

[WIDE RESPONSE]:

“I believe. I confess that Jesus is King. I give my embodied
allegiance to Jesus and the way of his Kingdom.”

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” **22** Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. **24** When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. **25** And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. **26** So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ **27** And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ **29** So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ **30** He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. **31** When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. **32** Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33** And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ **34** And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. **35** So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Matthew 18:21-35

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

1 Talent = 15 years Wages

10,000 Talents = 150,000 years Wages

1 Talent = 15 x \$50,000 = \$750,000

10,000 Talents = \$7,500,000,000 (\$7.5 billion)

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

Denarius = 1 days wage

100 denarius = 100 days wages

Daily Wage if you make \$50k/year = \$192.30

100 days wages = \$19,230.00

**COME
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ME**

“Wiping this debt off the books has implications for everyone down the pyramid, a fact certainly noted by all the clients of this servant. The king effectively inaugurates a regime of financial amnesty, a jubilee, not only for one slave, but for everyone in his debt.”

Stanley Saunders

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place...

His failure to carry on the forgiveness the king granted him not only halts the spread of financial forgiveness in its tracks, it also mocks and dishonors the king himself. The king cannot ignore such an affront. The unforgiving slave ***binds himself not to the king's mercy, but to the old system of wealth extraction and violence.*** He thus binds the king in turn to deal with him once again within the confines of this system.

Stanley Saunders

COME
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ME

He found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, ***he began to choke him,*** saying, 'Pay what you owe.'

COME
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ME

The grace of God is not a *cul-de-sac*.

The grace of God is a *continuous current* designed to be in motion.

And we are meant to get caught up in the flow of that current.

**COME
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ME**

**WHAT DO WE DO WITH OUR
UN-TRANSFORMED & UNFORGIVING HEARTS?**

**COME
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FORGIVENESS IS NOT

- RECONCILIATION
- STAYING IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP
- TRUSTING SOMEONE AGAIN

**COME
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FORGIVENESS IS:
RE-HUMANIZING

“Forgiveness flounders because I exclude the enemy from the **community of humans** even as I exclude myself from the **community of sinners**. But no one can be in the presence of the God of the crucified Messiah for long without overcoming this double exclusion — without transposing the enemy from the sphere of the monstrous into the sphere of shared humanity, and oneself from the sphere of proud innocence into the sphere of common sinfulness.

- Miroslav Volf

**COME
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FORGIVENESS IS:
RE-HUMANIZING
RELEASING

**COME
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“I had never known God’s love so intensely as I did then.”

Corrie Ten Boom

COME
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ME

The electrifying power of God's grace is
felt, realized, and fully understood
when we ***embody*** that grace to others.

**COME
FOLLOW
ME**

Pray like this...

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:14-15

START WITH THE GOOD NEWS (FORGIVENESS)

EMBODY ALLEGIANCE TO JESUS (FORGIVE)

- Who am I choking?
- How have I de-humanized them?
- How have I made myself superior to them?
- What "good reasons" am I using to withhold forgiveness?
- Stop waiting for the feeling..step out in allegiance.