

Grace Notes: growing our faith through music by Coni Ferland

Cry of My Heart Perry Butler

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Refrain:

It is the cry of my heart to follow you. It is the cry of my heart to be close to you.

It is the cry of my heart to follow you all the days of my life.

Teach me your holy ways, O Lord; so I can walk in your truth.

Teach me your holy ways, O Lord, and make me wholly devoted to you.

Refrain:

Open my eyes so I can see the wonderful things you do.

Open my heart up more and more, and make me wholly devoted to you.

Refrain:

It is the cry of my heart to follow you. It is the cry of my heart to be close to you.

It is the cry of my heart to follow you all the days of my life.

Matthew 20:29-34 “As Jesus and the disciples left the city of Jericho, a vast crowd surged along behind. Two blind men were sitting beside the road, and when they heard that Jesus was coming that way, they began shouting, ‘Sir, King David’s Son, have mercy on us!’ The crowd told them to be quiet, but they only yelled the louder. When Jesus came to the place where they were, he stopped in the road and called, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘we want to see!’ Jesus was moved with pity for them and touched their eyes. And instantly they could see, and followed him.”

The Living Bible¹

The two blind men, couldn't know for sure that the man walking down the road was actually Jesus, but they trusted what they had heard – about Jesus, and that He was coming – and called out to Him. Have you ever cried out “blindly” to God – for help, for healing – like the two men Matthew tells us about? Describe that time.

Were your prayers answered immediately like the men's prayers were? How did that feel? When you think of Jesus coming to earth to bring us back into right relationship with God, does that effect the way you feel about the “answer” to your prayers? In what ways?

Is it the “the cry of [your] heart” to follow Jesus? Does your perception of God's response to your prayers effect that? Why?

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Matthew 11:25-30 *“Abruptly Jesus broke into prayer: ‘Thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You’ve concealed your ways from sophisticates and know-it-alls, but spelled them out clearly to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that’s the way you like to work.’ Jesus resumed talking to the people, but now tenderly. ‘The Father has given me all these things to do and say. This is a unique Father-Son operation, coming out of Father and Son intimacies and knowledge. No one knows the Son the way the Father does, nor the Father the way the Son does. But I’m not keeping it to myself; I’m ready to go over it line by line with anyone willing to listen. Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.’”* The Message²

What truth do you hear in Jesus’ words? What can you learn from this truth? How might this strengthen your connection to Christ?

How could the “*unforced rhythms of grace*” affect your life? Spend some time considering what that would feel like.

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Open my heart up more and more, and make me wholly devoted to you.

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Mark 2:13-15a *“Then Jesus went out to the seashore again and preached to the crowds that gathered around him. As he was walking up the beach he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at his tax collection booth. ‘Come with me,’ Jesus told him. ‘Come be my disciple.’ And Levi jumped to his feet and went along. That night Levi invited his fellow tax collectors and many other notorious sinners to be his dinner guests so that they could meet Jesus and his disciples.”* The Living Bible¹

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus went out of His way to seek out the “notorious sinners”, as Mark describes them? Do you see this as one of the “wonderful things” Jesus does? Why?

How does Levi’s reaction to Jesus’ invitation make you feel? His willingness to share his experience with Jesus with his fellow tax collectors? Does this inspire you or intimidate you? Why?

As we move forward from Easter, what would it mean to you to “Open [your] heart up more and more” to Christ? How might doing that change your interactions with those you come in contact with as you go about your daily life?

Spend some time this month considering these questions, and your responses. Offer any hesitations or concerns to God, and listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you seek to follow Christ “all the days of [your] life”.

“May the God of peace himself make you entirely pure and devoted to God; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept strong and blameless until that day when our Lord Jesus Christ comes back again.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23 The Living Bible¹

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² The Message Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson.