

Grace Notes: growing our faith through music by Coni Ferland

is willing, but how weak the body is!’ Again he left them and prayed, ‘My Father! If this cup cannot go away until I drink it all, your will be done.’ He returned to them again and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy, so he went back to prayer the third time, saying the same things again.”

The Living Bible²

Romans 5:19-21 “Adam caused many to be sinners because he disobeyed God, and Christ caused many to be made acceptable to God because he obeyed. The Ten Commandments were given so that all could see the extent of their failure to obey God’s laws. But the more we see our sinfulness, the more we see God’s abounding grace forgiving us. Before, sin ruled over all men and brought them to death, but now God’s kindness rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The Living Bible²

Jesus came as a living example for us – an example of how to live, how to love, how to maintain our connection to God. Spend some time with these Bible verses; read them, listen to them, consider them. What messages can you take from them about what Jesus came to teach us? What is Christ saying to you?

The author uses the invitation “come” 15 times. Why do you think it’s important to use that word so often? What impact does the repetition have on you?

12 times the invitation expands to “come away”, and 7 of those to “come away with me”. Why is Christ calling you away? What danger lies in spending all our time with the world instead of with Christ? What is Christ calling you away from? Is it easy for you to say yes to Christ’s call? Why?

Grace Notes: growing our faith through music by Coni Ferland

What would it feel like to join Jesus Christ in “praying” and “praising”? In accepting “God’s grace”? In resting in “God’s loving arms”?

How can you take these answers and apply them to your everyday life? What impact might that have on your everyday living?

Matthew 4:18-20 *“Walking along the beach of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon (later called Peter) and Andrew. They were fishing, throwing their nets into the lake. It was their regular work. Jesus said to them, ‘Come with me. I’ll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I’ll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass.’ They didn’t ask questions, but simply dropped their nets and followed.”* The Message³

Simon and Andrew didn’t know this man, they didn’t know what they were being called to, or what the future held, yet they “*simply dropped their nets and followed.*” Matthew makes a point of saying that fishing was their livelihood, how they supported themselves and their families. Christ does not call us all to such dramatic life changes when we decide to follow Him. The author of the song reminds us that it can be equally life changing if we will follow Christ to “a quiet place, apart from the world with its frantic pace”. What quiet place is Christ calling you to? Will you join Him?

¹ New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

² The Living Bible copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House Foundation. All rights reserved.

³ The Message Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson.