

## **Follow Me** **Part 2: "The Most Unlikely Servant!"**

*By Cere Muscarella*

**Jesus first words... "Turn around, for the kingdom of heaven that you've been waiting for is here..."**  
**Matthew 4.17** All encompassing lifestyle change into a new kingdom model! All His ways are as "step up" from ours! **Isaiah 55.8** *Then, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men..."* **Matthew 4.18**  
We follow where He leads us... And we "follow," because we see what He's about and we want to be like Him!

**We Follow... Knowing the "turn around" is costly! Denying ourselves what others allow... "Things may be 'lawful' but I will not be controlled (freedom) by any of them; not all are expedient (to mission), or edify (build others up)!"** **1Cor 6.12, 10.23** **Carrying a cross where fleshiness dies...** "I will not walk away grieved from the invitation to be 'perfected!' **Mt 19.22** **Going the distance for the real thing...**  
"Unwilling to lose the peace of my soul by going my way!" **Matthew 16.24ff**

**We Follow... Knowing the "turn around" is costly! But wanting the intimacy and security of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, more! Because the end of the pathway is transformation into the image of Jesus! For the "happiness" that comes from pleasing God and discovering purpose! To "see" what He sees and to labor where He is at work! Because we want to be with Him where He is and not be where He isn't!**

**So, Jesus...** "Turn around because what you have been waiting for is here... no more killing time with distractions..." Follow Me... happy will you be if you 'get' Me! Will you 'serve' your generic calling... Will you 'serve' your specific purpose... **Will you put the 'excuses' on the Cross and begin ministering from your testimony?** Very important and potent concept!

**Matthew 4.17-25 (abridged)** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. And Jesus walking by the sea called to Simon Peter and Andrew and said, 'follow Me.' And they immediately left their nets. He called two more, James and John, and they immediately left their ship and their father and followed. And Jesus went throughout Galilee teaching and healing and His fame spread throughout Syria *and a great multitude followed Him from Galilee and Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan...*

**The Most Unlikely Servant!** "And His ship landed in the country of the Gadarenes, and when Jesus got out, immediately there met him a man who had devils a long time. He was naked, living among the tombs; day and night he was on the move, crying and cutting himself and no one could bind him, even with chains! When he saw Jesus he came running and yelling, "What do I have to do with you Son of God? Do not torment me!" Because Jesus said, "come out of him you unclean spirit!" And all the devils begged, 'don't send us out of the country. Send us into that herd of pigs!' Jesus gave them permission and the devils came out of the man and went into the pigs and they all rushed over a cliff and drowned in the sea. Then the swine herders fled and came and told everyone in the city what happened and the people came and saw the man who was possessed, sitting and clothed and in his right mind... and they asked Jesus to leave at once because they were afraid. And the man asked to go with Jesus... but Jesus said to him... **"return to your home, to your family and friends and show them what great things the Lord has done for you and the love He has shown toward you..."** And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city, and Decapolis, how great were the things Jesus had done for him... and it came to pass that when Jesus returned, the people gladly received him, for they were all waiting for Him! **Mark 5.1-20** **Luke 8.26-40 (abridged compendium)**

**Remember Decapolis, how people had heard about Jesus and some followed? Remember that they asked Him to leave? And now, after the man's testimony, they were ready for Him! Mark 7.31**

**'Serving...' from your testimony!** We don't know what he said, or how much he had to say... but... They could see the difference... and if God did it for him... *He could do it again!* ***With our mouth confession is made of the salvation of God, and faith for others confession of faith that Jesus is Lord can come by hearing faith-full testimony...*** Your testimony is a matter of obedience to Christ... *"Go and proclaim!"* Which is why it is under the assault of fear, doubt, and 'disorganization!'

**The Gadarene...** Wasn't concerned with scholarship... He didn't wait for discipleship... He didn't need/get positional leadership... ***"Go to your own and show what great things God has for you" and he went!*** You only need to be ready to talk about the great things God has done for you! And not all of it! Just the relevant parts! It's called "aspect" or "relevance!" "Let me share what's relevant to you!"

**Write out your story!** Get every great/good/bad/evil thing out so that you can see it! Identify the 'life shaping' places! Write out the lessons you learned! "Not everything is as it seems at first!" Organize it into "aspects/facets!" "I see that I have an overcoming-by-faith experience with \_\_\_\_\_!" ***"All things to all men that I might by all means win some; for the gospel's sake and to be a partaker with you!" 1Cor 9.22,23*** "Rejoice with those that rejoice, and weep with those that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another." **Rom 12.15,16**

**'Serving...' from your testimony!** People want you to tell them something powerful and life-changing! People want to hear how your "real life" was powerfully changed! People want you to tell them something they can apply for a life-changing experience! People love listening to people who are "non-professionals!" ***People are the reason you and I were left here!***

**The Power of Your Testimony!** It's all the response God needs from us at the beginning! ***It's not a call to bear responsibilities bigger than you can!*** Formal ministry is totally aside from this! Jesus is the only one who 'sets ministers' in His Church! **Eph 4.8ff 1Cor 12.5** ***It's not a call to 'oversight!'*** That can be aspired to as a person is proven in life! **1Tim 3.1-13 Titus 1.5-11** ***All God is asking for at this stage is for you to "tell the great things He has done for you!"***

**"Do you Follow Me...?" Then speak up!**