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## PERMISSION TO COME

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Out of all the gifts that Christ bestows upon us as His children, one of the greatest, perhaps THE greatest, aside from salvation itself, is His permission to come to Him - at any time, in any circumstance, for any reason, for any need large or small. Hebrews 4:15-16 tells us that we are not only permitted, we are invited to come - not to a high priest who is out of reach and unapproachable, but to our Lord Jesus Himself, Who is always accessible and available. Verse 15 reads, *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched [Who does not understand and sympathize] with the feeling of our infirmities [weaknesses]; but was in all points tempted [assaulted, tried] like as we are, yet without sin."* Dear Christian, let me assure you, Jesus identifies with and is affected by the things that affect you. There is absolutely nothing you can take to Him that He does not understand. When you have a need, He feels the need. When you hurt, He hurts with you. He views your problems as His problems. Whatever you experience, He experiences right along side you. And, He is ready to come to your aid and comfort if you will only come to Him. Thus verse 16 tells us, *"Let us therefore come boldly [freely with assurance] unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

In Matthew 11:28 Jesus said, *"Come unto Me, all ye that labor [who are tired and weary] and are heavy laden [weighted down], and I will give you rest [relief]."* In John 5:35 Jesus said, *"I am the Bread of life, he that cometh to Me shall never hunger."* In John 7:37 He said, *"If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink."* The solution for every need in life, beginning with the need of salvation, is to come to Jesus. The word "come" in these verses has within it the sense of arrival as well as the sense of following. No matter what you are dealing with, burdened by, fearful of, or disturbed about - the solution is to arrive at Jesus and, once you have arrived, follow Him. If your thoughts, emotions, decisions, and actions take you to any other place than Jesus, you will not find the ultimate help you need. When the disciples got to Jesus in the boat during the storm (Matt.4: 41), they found peace and calm

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and safety. When the Samaritan woman arrived at Jesus (John 4:14) she found Him sitting at her point of need. In Mark 4:50 we read of blind Bartimaeus, *"And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus."* Once he got "there" he was where he needed to be – standing right in front of the Source of supply for every need in our life.

Jesus' instruction was always the imperative - COME, and then follow. Dear friend, regardless of what you are suffering through right now, your ultimate answer is not to read books or seek counseling. The solution is to FIRST get to Jesus. Then, if He leads you to do this or that, so be it. But, you must first get to Him. Coming to Jesus alters everything - always.

So, how do you get to Him? You do just what Bartimaeus did. First, he realized his helplessness and utter need. Then, he made the critical choice to rise up from where he was and run to Jesus. THERE, he found help. You must give up on the idea that help might come from some other source than Jesus. You must rise up and run to Him. Go to Him in prayer. Pour out your heart before Him. Do not hold back anything. Remember, He is affected by everything that affects you. He feels everything you feel. You cannot tell Him anything He does not already know, but He wants to hear it from you, just like He wanted to hear it from Bartimaeus. Whatever your circumstances are, just make sure they drive you to Jesus and not somewhere else. HE is your Solution and your Help.

Now, let me caution you, the very last thing satan wants is for you to get to Jesus. In John 1:39 Jesus spoke these words, *"Come and you will see.."* The moment you make the slightest move toward Jesus, you will begin to see, not with your physical eyes, but with your spiritual eyes of faith. Every time someone came to Jesus in the Bible, they were linked to the supernatural power of God. That is exactly what will happen to you, and that is exactly what satan wants to prevent. He will tempt you to do anything, and everything, other than go to Jesus. Every time a child of God arrives at Jesus, he wins, the Kingdom of God wins and satan loses.

Dear Christian, God has not only given you permission to come to Jesus, He has given you an invitation - even more, an imperative, to come. Stop thinking, stop reading, stop consulting, stop searching, stop figuring, and come! Whatever the alternative is that satan is tempting you with, turn from it and run into the arms of Him Who loves you and died for you and cares for you. He is The Good Shepherd and He knows how to care for and comfort His little lamb. He is waiting with open arms and open heart. The solution for our lost condition was to come to Jesus for salvation. The solution for everything else is to continue to come and to come and to come. He never wearies of our coming. He has not only given you permission to come, he EXPECTS and DESIRES you to come. *"Come unto Me. . ."*

*"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)*

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