

# Walking in Command: No Excuses

**John 14:15** *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

It's easy to look at things we should be doing and make an excuse of why we can't. Often time I look at God as if He understands that I've been through a lot, I'm busy with responsibility and therefore He does not hold me accountable to be obedient to His request.

**No Excuses- (NLT) Luke 14:15-24** *Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, "What a privilege it would be to have a share in the Kingdom of God!" 16 Jesus replied with this illustration: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. 17 When all was ready, he sent his servant around to notify the guests that it was time for them to come. 18 But they all began making excuses. One said he had just bought a field and wanted to inspect it, so he asked to be excused. 19 Another said he had just bought five pair of oxen and wanted to try them out. 20 Another had just been married, so he said he couldn't come. 21 "The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was angry and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the city and invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.' 22 After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' 23 So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. 24 For none of those I invited first will get even the smallest taste of what I had prepared for them.' "*

Let us quit using life as an excuse to Walk in Command. No Excuses- Just do It!

- 1. Live to give others what you're in search for- (NLT) Matt 7:7** *Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened.*

**Our Responsibility- Matt 7:8** *For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks.*

**We must know God will not withhold any good gift from us- (NLT) Matt. 7:9-11** *You parents — if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? 10 Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! 11 If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.*

**We must be the gift to others that we are looking for- The Law of Reciprocity- (NLT) Matt 7:12** *"Do for others what you would like them to do for you. This is a summary of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.*

- 2. Watch a Person's Life, Not Words- (NLT) Matt 7:15** *Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep, but are really wolves that will tear you apart.*

**Our Responsibility- (NLT) Matt 7:16-19** *You can detect them by the way they act, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit. You don't pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles. 17 A healthy tree produces good fruit, and an unhealthy tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. 19 So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire.*

**We must understand that identity is in the doing- (NLT) Matt 7:20-21** *Yes, the way to identify a tree or a person is by the kind of fruit that is produced. 21 "Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but they still won't enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven.*

**We must understand I am the company I keep- 1 Cor 5:9-11** *I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. 11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*

**2 Thess 3:14-15** *And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.*

**We must leave the separation to the Lord- (NLT) Matt 7:22-23** *On judgment day many will tell me, 'Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Go away; the things you did were unauthorized.'*

**(NLT) Matt 13:36-42** *Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, "Please explain the story of the weeds in the field." 37 "All right," he said. "I, the Son of Man, am the farmer who plants the good seed. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. 39 The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels. 40 "Just as the weeds are separated out and burned, so it will be at the end of the world. 41 I, the Son of Man, will send my angels, and they will remove from my Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace and burn them. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

**Matt 25:32-33** *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from*

*the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

- 3. Point People towards the Kingdom- (NLT) Matt 10:5-6** *Jesus sent the twelve disciples out with these instructions: "Don't go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, 6 but only to the people of Israel — God's lost sheep.*

Jew first-

**Our Responsibility- Matt 10:7-8** *Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!*

**Matt 28:19-20** *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

**Mark 16:15-18** *And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere. 16 Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. 17 These signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak new languages. 18 They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick and heal them."*

**We must Go in Faith- Matt 10:9-13** *"Don't take any money with you. 10 Don't carry a traveler's bag with an extra coat and sandals or even a walking stick. Don't hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve to be fed. 11 Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy man and stay in his home until you leave for the next town. 12 When you are invited into someone's home, give it your blessing. 13 If it turns out to be a worthy home, let your blessing stand; if it is not, take back the blessing.*

**We must understand the reception is not our responsibility- Matt 10:14-15** *If a village doesn't welcome you or listen to you, shake off the dust of that place from your feet as you leave. 15 I assure you, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off on the judgment day than that place will be.*

**The sower simply sows-**

- 4. Be Adaptive and Harmless- Matthew 10:16** *Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*

**Learn to adapt to an environment so an honorable outcome can be achieved.**

A snake uses his senses to navigate and movement is what he focuses on.

A dove is not threatening to its surroundings, but brings life where she flies. (A product of her diet.)

**Our Responsibility- (NLT) Matt 10:17-18** *But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and beaten in the synagogues. 18 And you must stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. **This will be your opportunity to tell them about me — yes, to witness to the world.***

**We must trust Holy Spirit- (NLT) Matt 10:19-20** *When you are arrested, don't worry about what to say in your defense, because you will be given the right words at the right time. 20 For it won't be you doing the talking — it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

**We must not allow adversity to stop us- (NLT) Matt 10:21-23** *"Brother will betray brother to death, fathers will betray their own children, and children will rise against their parents and cause them to be killed. 22 And everyone will hate you because of your allegiance to me. But those who endure to the end will be saved. 23 When you are persecuted in one town, flee to the next. I assure you that I, the Son of Man, will return before you have reached all the towns of Israel.*

**We must speak the truth no matter the accusation- (NLT) Matt. 10:24-27** *"A student is not greater than the teacher. A servant is not greater than the master. 25 The student shares the teacher's fate. The servant shares the master's fate. And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons, how much more will it happen to you, the members of the household! 26 But don't be afraid of those who threaten you. For the time is coming when everything will be revealed; all that is secret will be made public. 27 **What I tell you now in the darkness, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ears, shout from the housetops for all to hear!***

**We must not fear death- (NLT) Matt 10:28-31** *"Don't be afraid of those who want to kill you. They can only kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Not even a sparrow, worth only half a penny, can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. 30 And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows.*

**We must never deny our faith- Matt 10:32-33** *"If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will openly acknowledge that person before my Father in*

heaven. 33 *But if anyone denies me here on earth, I will deny that person before my Father in heaven.*

- 5. Never Speak Against Holy Spirit- (NLT) Matt 12:31** *Every sin or blasphemy can be forgiven — except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which can never be forgiven.*

**Sin-** Miss the Mark

**Trespass-** Cross over a boundary un-intentional

**Transgression-** deliberate action against someone without caring how they feel.

**Iniquity-** deliberate action without care about how god feels about it

**Our Responsibility- Matt. 12:32** *Anyone who blasphemes against me, the Son of Man, can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, either in this world or in the world to come.*

**We must not speak against what we don't know- 1 Cor 13:11-12** *When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly ; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

- 6. Don't be a Stumbling Block to Others- (NLT) Matt 18:7** *How terrible it will be for anyone who causes others to sin. Temptation to do wrong is inevitable, but how terrible it will be for the person who does the tempting.*

**Our Responsibility- (NLT) Matt 18:8-9** *So if your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better to enter heaven crippled or lame than to be thrown into the unquenchable fire with both of your hands and feet. 9 And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better to enter heaven half blind than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell.*

**We must value people in order to care about my influence on them- Matt 18:10** *"Beware that you don't despise a single one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father.*

- 7. Resolve Your Differences- (NLT) Matt 18:15-20** *If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the fault. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.*

**Our Responsibility- (NLT) Matt 18:16-20** *But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. 17 If that person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. If the church decides you are right, but the other person won't accept it, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.*

**We must know that our decisions are binding or freeing- (NLT) Matt 18:18** *I tell you this: Whatever you prohibit on earth is prohibited in heaven, and whatever you allow on earth is allowed in heaven.*

**We must know that Christ in the Mediator- (NLT) Matt 18:19-20** *"I also tell you this: If two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. 20 For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I am there among them."*

8. **Forgive Every Time- (NLT) Matt 18:21** *Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"*

**Our Responsibility- (NLT) Matt 18:22** *"No!" Jesus replied, "seventy times seven!"*

**We must understand the debt of our sin- (NLT) Matt 18:23-34** *"For this reason, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. 24 In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. 25 He couldn't pay, so the king ordered that he, his wife, his children, and everything he had be sold to pay the debt. 26 But the man fell down before the king and begged him, 'Oh, sir, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' 27 Then the king was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. 28 "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. 29 His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient and I will pay it,' he pleaded. 30 But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and jailed until the debt could be paid in full. 31 "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him what had happened. 32 Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' 34 Then the angry king sent the man to prison until he had paid every penny.*

**We must understand our forgiveness is connected to forgiving- Matt 18:35** *"That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters in your heart."*

**Close:**

**No Excuse-**

We can make excuses why we treat people like we do-

We can make excuses about the company we keep-

We can make excuses why we don't Go and preach-

We can make excuses for our attitude and behavior-

We can make excuses why we don't care what people think-

We can make excuses why we won't forgive-

But in Christ- We have No Excuses-