

## THE FOLLOW UP

### **AMERICAN IDOLS — PART 3**

*You have 6 days to get  
these 4 devos and the Quiet  
Time Challenge done*



Above all else, guard your heart for it is the source of  
your life. ~ Proverbs 4:23

As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the  
real person. ~ Proverbs 27:19

## DEVO #1— Life Measurement

**READ: Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 12:13-21**

Stuff. We have lots of it. And all this stuff takes up much of the time and money God has given us—Ipods, Ipads, laptops, video games, CDs, books, clothes, magazines, etc. We pride ourselves on our “collections.” “Look at all the video games I have.” “Look at all the songs I have loaded on my mp3 player.” “Look at all the clothes I have in my closet!”

In the end, is that how we want our lives to be measured? Do you want your life to be measured by how much you have, or by how much good you have done with what you have? Do you want your life to be measured by how much time you spent with your stuff, or how much time you spent fulfilling the stuff God has for you to do?

1. In Matthew 25, what does Jesus say to the servants who used well the time and money given to them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In Matthew 25, what does Jesus say to the servant who did not use well what was given to him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does Jesus say in Luke 12:21?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. If life is measured by how well you are using the time, energy and resources God has given you, how are you doing?

### PRAYER

- ~Thank God for the time, energy, and resources He has given you
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not centering on Him
- ~Ask God to help you measure life by the right standards

## ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

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## POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ♦ Examine your heart and life for idols. Is your heart fully yielded to God?
- ♦ Have a conversation with your parents about what you can do as a family to stay centered on God
- ♦ Keep praying at least 10 minutes a day
  
- ♦ Ask God to show you what in your life is trying to take Him (or already has taken Him) out of first place in your heart

## QUIET TIME CHALLENGE

### NOTE:

The *Quiet Time Challenge* is NOT a devotional in itself. It is designed for you to do separately apart from your daily devotional time.

### HOW IT WORKS:

Find a quiet place with no distractions. Make this between just you and God. Clear your mind then read the Bible verse(s). After doing so, work through the questions. At the end, spend five to ten minutes in "listening mode." Just ask God to speak to you and then be quiet and seek to hear His voice.

### PART 1 — READ: Matthew 6:33

### PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

What has been the focus of your heart? If it is not God, what needs to change?

### PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask Him to show you what things are leading your heart away from Him. Then seek to hear His voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

## DEVO #2 — I Just Want to Have Fun

### READ: Ecclesiastes 12

Let me tell you the true story of Alex. At age nine, he was a smart and good-looking little kid...but always getting into trouble! By age twelve, his "episodes" of misbehavior were steadily increasing.

A caring adult talked with him about the enormous potential he had, but his focus was on all the wrong things. To this, Alex replied, "I do want to follow God, but I just want to have fun first. When I am older, I will follow God." Well, by age fifteen, Alex was addicted to drugs and alcohol. At age twenty-seven, he'd already had a couple stints in drug rehab, battled other substance abuse issues, been in and out of broken relationships, and had yet to finish college.

Whatever you focus on becomes your reality. If your focus is wrong as a pre-teen/teen, it won't change just because you have gotten older.

1. What does verse 1 say?
2. What is Solomon's conclusion in verse 13?
3. Why is it important to follow God now instead of waiting until you are older?
4. What stuff is getting in the way of you following God now?

### PRAYER

- ~Thank God for being more than enough for you
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, chasing after idols
- ~Ask God to remind you to start following Him now, not later

## DEVO #3 — More is NOT Better

**READ: Ecclesiastes 5:8-20; Psalm 34:8-10**

Heath Ledger, Lindsey Lohan, Charlie Sheen, Whitney Houston, Miley Cyrus, Paris Hilton, Amy Winehouse, Robin Williams, Owen Wilson, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Brittney Murphy, Prince, Ben Affleck and more. All of them bought into the lie that more is better. They made their lives about money, fame, success, and stuff. And guess what? They actually got it!

Yet, because their focus was on a lie, all they had to show for all their stuff was emptiness, frustration, and depression. Some turned to drugs and alcohol, others committed suicide, still others are battling addictions and are in an out of rehab and/or prison.

The answer is not "more is better." The answer is Jesus is better. If you want more of something, seek more of Him!

1. What does Solomon say about the futility of chasing after money in Ecclesiastes 5?
2. When you seek God above all else, what happens according to Psalm 34?
3. Have you been guilty of believing the lie that more is better?
4. Why is this not true?

### PRAYER

~Thank God for all the great things He has waiting for you  
~Confess to God, if necessary, seeking more instead of seeking Him  
~Ask God to guide you to seek the right things

## DEVO #4 — Poisoned by Stuff

**READ: Deuteronomy 7:21-8:6**

One day Bob noticed that fire ants had decided to take up residence near his children's swing set. Wanting to deal quickly with the problem, he laid ant poison around their hills. Now, this poison smelled and tasted like something good to the ants. They assumed the poison to be good food and began to pick up the granules and carry them back to the colony. When Bob returned later, he noticed that not only were the fire ants carrying the poison down into their hill, but some smaller black ants had found this "yummy food" and were stealing it. Thinking they were getting the other ants' treasure, they unwittingly poisoned themselves.

Similarly, when we see someone with more than we have, we must beware. Coveting, desiring more, and wanting what others have may poison us spiritually.

1. What does God say in verses 7:25-26?
2. Why does He say this?
3. What do you think verse 8:3 means when it basically says we don't live on stuff, but we live on every word that comes from God?
4. What are you focused on?

### PRAYER

~Thank God for all that He has done for you  
~Confess to God, if necessary, seeking fulfillment in the world  
~Ask God to guide you deeper into a relationship with Him