

THE FOLLOW UP

WHO ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

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



"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." ~ Jesus (John 10:10)

DEVO #1—Jesus is the Answer — Part 1

READ: Matthew 23:13-36

Robert was not only good at keeping secrets, he was a pro. To his mom, dad, little brothers, and fellow small group members, he was a nice guy and a top-notch Christian. In reality, however, he was a sex-addict. No matter how much he promised himself that he would not look at pornography anymore, he could not stop himself. Within days of his next promise to stop, he was back at it again.

His dad got him into counseling. When that didn't work, Mom threatened an internet-free rehab center. Those threats didn't work either. Finally, Robert took a bottle of pain-killers and prayed to die in his sleep. He did not die though. He lived and entered into a Christian rehab program. It was there that he truly met Jesus Christ and stopped living by his own strength and started living in Christ's. This daily and humble walk with God has enabled him to live in freedom.

1. What kind of things does Jesus say to the hypocritical Pharisees who outwardly looked good but were inwardly a mess?
2. Literally, "hypocrite" means "mask-wearer." Would you say that you are guilty of wearing masks to cover the true inner you?
3. Have you felt like Robert, trapped in defeat to a certain sin that you are trying in vain to conquer all by yourself?
4. Do you need to give anything over to Christ right now?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for His power to break all sin
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, trying to overcome sinful habits and desires in your own strength
- ~Ask God to fill you with His strength so you can overcome

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Think about how you relate to Christ. Are you all in or all out
- ◆ If you are hiding anything from Christ, and those around you, it is time to hand it over. Christ knows about it already. Get on your knees, confess your sin, and start fresh!
- ◆ Keep praying at least ten minutes each day
- ◆ Consider your entertainment choices, thought choices, word choices, friend choices, etc. How do they all effect who or what you follow?

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: John 10:10

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

Where have you been looking for fulfillment?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask the Lord to show you where you are not surrendered to Him. Then seek to hear His voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — Jesus is the Answer — Part 2

READ: Matthew 27:26-56

When sixteen year-old Sarah's mom died suddenly, she felt as if she had pretty much been killed too (since her dad had never really been too involved in her life.) To deal with the pain of Mom's absence, Sarah turned to alcohol and drank nearly every night. One night, drunk and depressed, she stumbled out to her car, put the keys into the ignition, and drove down the street. Within seconds, the car was upside down in a ditch.

Her neighbors, the Hadley's, had been praying for her since her mom's death. So after Sarah got out of the hospital, the Hadley's invited her over and then invited her to their church. It was there that she learned of a Savior who died a terrible death so that she could have new life. Sarah gave her heart over to the Lord, and now wakes up every day and commits to giving her life to the One who gave up His life for her.

1. As you look through the Scripture passage, list all the many things that Christ endured:
2. Jesus was willing to endure all of that because of His tremendous love for you. What should your response be to this?
3. Christ sacrificed His life for you. In response, He asks that you be willing to give up your life for Him. Are you prepared to do that?
4. If you answered "no," what is standing in the way?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for His great sacrifice for you
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, an unwillingness to give up your whole life for Him
- ~Ask God to help you "lose your life" in Him
- ~Ask God to rid your life of anything that is keeping you from wholehearted devotion and service to Him

DEVO #3 — Jesus is the Answer — Part 3

READ: Luke 9:23-26; 57-62; 1 Kings 19

On a mission trip to India, fifteen year-old Turner was walking with his group through a busy downtown street. Suddenly, a woman shoved a baby into his arms and told Turner to take the little child to America to give her a better life. This was the moment that changed the teen's life forever.

When he returned home, Turner knew that to follow Jesus he must do something and do it now. So, with some others, he started raising money in order to reach out with God's love to forgotten children living in unspeakable darkness and desperation. Each year, he (and those with him) raise thousands of dollars.

1. What does Jesus call His followers to do in Luke 9:23?
2. Jesus called others to follow in verses 57-62, but they all had excuses that Jesus didn't treat too kindly. Do you have excuses, even ones that seem pretty good, that keep you from following Him totally? How do you think Jesus feels about them?
3. What did Elisha do to keep from going back to his old life?
4. What do you need to "burn," or get rid of, to fully follow Christ?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for His tremendous love and care for you
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, making excuses to not follow
- ~Ask God to get rid of anything in your life that is barrier to fully serving Him

DEVO #4 — Jesus is the Answer — Part 4

READ: Matthew 7:13-29; Revelation 3:14-20

Nineteen year-old Reggie was a single father living all for himself—girls, parties, drinking binges, and smoking pot. He showed up to work with a hangover more times than not, was known to lie, and didn't really care how well he did his job...so long as the paychecks kept coming. Then Christ came. The change was instant. Reggie was filled with the joy of the Lord, stopped staying out late, gave up drugs and alcohol, and filled his life with Bible reading, a Christian small group, and prayer.

This change was not something his girlfriend was interested in. She like partying and drinking. She liked Friday and Saturday nights out on the town. And she liked sleeping in on Sundays. Reggie, however, refused to back down. He knew Jesus' invitation was all or nothing. Moderation was not allowed.

1. In Matthew 7, Jesus gives three different scenarios, each painting a picture between those who obey and those who don't. Why is obedience to God so important?
2. Matthew 7:22 has a pretty impressive list of things people did for the Lord, yet Jesus was not impressed because they were not done out of obedience to Him. Have you been guilty of serving the Lord your own way and in your own time?
3. What does Jesus do with "the lukewarm" in Revelation 3?
4. So, after four days of devos, what or who are you following?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for the truth of His Word
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, a lack of obedience to Him
- ~Ask God to help you not live a lukewarm life