

Quotes from:

Idleman, Kyle, *Not a Fan: Teen Edition: What Does It Mean to Really Follow Jesus*, Zondervan, 2012

THE FOLLOW UP

You have **SIX** days to get these **FOUR** devos and the Quiet Time Challenge done as well as read pages 143-172 in: *Not a Fan*



Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life." ~ Luke 9:23,24

DEVO #1—Following Jesus Means Sacrifice

READ: Matthew 16:24-26; 19:16-30

In *NOT A FAN*, Kyle Idleman talks about going deep into a tribal area of Africa. There he gave a Gospel message and two young men accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The next day, these two showed up back in the village with bags over their shoulders. Kyle was confused as to what was happening, so he asked the local missionary.

The missionary told Kyle that because these young men had accepted Jesus, they were disowned by their families. They could no longer return to their homes or to their village. They knew it would happen if they chose to follow Christ, yet they chose to follow anyway.

1. What are the requirements for following Jesus according to Matthew 16:24-26?
2. Was the rich young man in Matthew 19 willing to follow these requirements? Why or why not?
3. Are you willing to follow these requirements? Why or why not?
4. What are some things that may keep you, or others, from saying "YES!" to sacrificing for Jesus' sake?

PRAYER

- ~ Thank Jesus for denying Himself, taking up His cross, and showing His great love for you by dying for your sins
- ~ Confess to God, if necessary, wanting to be a Christian but not wanting to do it Jesus' way
- ~ Ask God to strengthen you to follow Jesus His way

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Read pages 143-172 in *Not a Fan*
- ◆ Spend time reviewing how you spend the time and money God has given you. Is it how God would have you use it?
- ◆ Get rid of anything that is becoming an idol in your life and causing you to use too much of God's time and money in the wrong area(s)
- ◆ Meet with a youth leader about how to really discover what God expects of you right now
- ◆ Pray and tell God you want to release any thought, any action, any attitude, any possession that is keeping you from experiencing all He has for you

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 5 to 10 minutes in "listening mode." Just ask God to speak to you and then be quiet and seek to hear His voice.

PART 1 — READ: Psalm 42:1,2

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Sum up the verses you just read:

How much do you desire to be in God's presence?

What challenge can you take from these verses?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to speak to you about surrender, then seek to hear His voice speak to your heart. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — Am I a Flexitarian?

READ: 2 Corinthians 4:8-18; 6:14-7:1

In NOT A FAN, we learn that the word "Flexitarian" describes people who want to be vegetarian but still want to eat meat. "Flexitarian" is also a way to describe many Christians who want to follow Jesus without being totally committed to Him. They say things like—"I really like Jesus, but I'm not real big into the idea of going to church." "I really like Jesus, but don't ask me to forgive the person who hurt me." "I really like Jesus, but I'm not saving sex for marriage." "I really like Jesus, but this show is way too funny not to watch." And the list goes on and on.

Following Jesus, however, can only happen when you are completely and totally committed. Anything less and you are not really a follower. You're just a fan.

1. According to 2 Corinthians 7:1, how much worldly stuff should you allow to compete with Jesus?
2. In 2 Corinthians 4, what are some things that Paul endured for Jesus and yet kept on going for Him?
3. Why was Paul willing to go through all of this for Jesus? (See verses 4:15-18)
4. Are you willing to follow Jesus no matter what? Why or why not?

PRAYER

~Thank Jesus for being devoted enough to you to die for you
~Confess to God, if necessary, being a "flexitarian" Christian
~Ask God to help you follow Him no matter what

DEVO #3 — Snuggie Theology or Cross Theology?

READ: John 21:15-22; Philippians 2:5-11

John 21 is one of my favorite chapters in the Bible. It involves Peter, who a few days before (in John 18), had denied knowing Jesus three times. Now, Jesus is back and asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?" He is showing His great love and forgiveness to Peter and giving him a chance to get it right.

Then, in verses 21:18-19, He basically tells Peter, "One day, down the road, people are going to take you to a place you don't want to go and kill you there because you are working to tell others about Me, but come follow Me anyway."

And we know, as we turn the page to the Book of Acts, that Peter does follow. He knows it will mean death, but he takes up his cross anyway.

1. Philippians 2:5 says we should have the same attitude as Jesus, then in verses 6-8, we see what that looks like. Based on those verses, what do you think having "the attitude of Jesus" looks like?
2. "Snuggie Theology" says everything should be comfortable and easy for you. Is that Jesus' theology?
3. What would it look like, over the next week, if you were totally, 100% committed to living for Christ no matter what?
4. Would this be different than how things currently are for you? If so, what changes should you be making to your life?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for showing you what it looks like to follow God's will no matter how hard it is
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, wanting everything to be comfortable and easy when it comes to following Jesus
- ~Ask God to mold you into someone who is totally sold-out to Him

DEVO #4 — What About That?

READ: Acts 5:17-42

Jesus doesn't want just part of your heart, He wants the *whole* thing! So when you have things in your life that are too important, Jesus will point to them and say, "What about that?"

"What about your entertainment choices?" "What about your money?" "What about that hobby or that relationship?" "What about the amount of time you spend playing video games?" "What about your addiction to your phone?"

Have you exchanged living for Jesus with living for these things? Does Jesus lose to your desire to go to that party, to be popular at school, to a sport, a website, a phone, a video game, or a friend? Is Jesus *first* above all else?

1. In Acts 4, the disciples were arrested for preaching about Jesus. In Acts 5, they are arrested again. But after being freed by the angel, what do they do?
2. When the disciples are arrested *yet again*, why does Peter tell the leaders they will keep on preaching in verse 29?
3. After the disciples are whipped and threatened for telling people about Jesus, what do they do in verse 42?
4. The disciples were choosing Jesus over safety and everything else. Are you choosing Jesus over everything else?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for choosing to die for you over everything else
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not wanting to follow Jesus over everything else
- ~Ask God to transform you into a person who puts Him first above all else