

1. Rokeach, Milton *The Three Christs of Ypsilanti*, NYRB Classics, 2011

THE FOLLOW UP

AMERICAN IDOLS — PART 4

***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 — Come to the Well

READ: Jeremiah 2:10-13; John 4:1-26

When Kirk Cameron was seventeen, he was on top of the world. He was on the hit TV show *Growing Pains*. He was making \$50,000 a week, considered a teen heart-throb and constantly featured in magazines like *Teen Beat*, *16*, and *Tiger Beat*. Thousands of girls had his poster on their bedroom walls. Yes, he was at the height of his career.

Yet, even with all of that, he was miserable. He had tried to fill himself, but it was not working. No amount of money or fame was filling the emptiness inside of him. Then he met Christ. He came to the Well, to the Source of life, and has been getting continually filled by Jesus ever since.

1. What does God say about the Israelites in Jeremiah 2?
2. Have you been guilty of trying to fill yourself instead of coming to Jesus to be filled?
3. The woman in John 4 thought she was at a well talking to a man, but really she was at a hole in the ground talking to The Well. What happened once she realized this?
4. What (or who) is the well that you draw from every day?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for being an unending well for you
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, trying to fill yourself
- ~Ask Jesus to come and fill your life and be your source

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Ask God to show you what areas of your life are not being lived according to His will
- ◆ Have a conversation with your parents about what you can do as a family to stay centered on God
- ◆ Keep praying at least ten minutes each 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: Philippians 2:3-5

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain these verses in your own words:

How would your life look different if you lived out these three verses? (Be specific)

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask Him to show you where self has taken the throne of your heart. Then seek to hear His voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — Fulfilled in Christ

READ: John 6:29-50

At only age twenty, Henry Martyn was honored for his achievements in mathematics. In fact, he was given the highest recognition possible in that field, and yet he felt an emptiness inside. He said that instead of finding fulfillment, he had "only grasped a shadow."

After encountering Christ, Martyn sailed to India as a missionary at the age of twenty-four. When he arrived, he prayed, "Lord, let me burn out for You." Over the next seven years, he translated the New Testament into the difficult Eastern languages of Urdu and Persian. These languages are spoken and read by BILLIONS of people—all of whom are now able to read the Bible in their own language because one man found fulfillment in Christ and followed Him.

1. What does Jesus compare Himself to in John 6?
2. You probably know what it is like to feel hungry, eat something and finally feel satisfied. How is this similar to what Jesus does for us when we surrender to Him?
3. Have you given yourself fully to Jesus, so that He can satisfy you with Himself?
4. What are some things that get in the way?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for being the Bread of Life
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, trying to be filled by things other than Him
- ~Ask the Lord to make you more like Him each day

DEVO #3 — You are Not God

READ: Galatians 5:16-26

In the book, *The Three Christs of Ypsilanti*, Dr. Milton Rokeach talks about treating three patients (at the same time) who all thought they were Jesus Christ. Rokeach tried several methods to get these men to realize that they were NOT Jesus, but each "were trapped in an upside down reality where they thought they were the center of the universe."¹

Funny, most of us do not suffer from "a Messiah complex," but how often do we struggle with making choices as though we are the center of the universe and not God? With that in mind, it is important that we all remember this one foundational reality: "There is only one God, and I am not Him."

1. What does Paul say happens in verses 19-21 when we follow our own sinful nature?
2. What does Paul say happens in verses 22,23 when we follow God's Spirit?
3. With how much of our lives should we follow the Spirit according to verse 25?
4. In what areas of life are you making choices as though you are the one in charge?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for giving you life
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not living TOTALLY for Him
- ~Ask God to remind you that He is God and you are not

DEVO #4 — Your Whole Self

READ: 1 Chronicles 21

Jesus doesn't want just part of your life, 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?" 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, or a friend? Is Jesus FIRST above all else?

1. Instead of seeking God first for strength, King David sought strength in the number of fighting men he had in his army. So what did David command Joab to do?
2. How did the Lord feel about David's census?
3. Are there things you look to first for comfort, or love, or strength, or wisdom, or joy, etc. before you look to God?
4. If you answered "yes" to question 3, what must you do about this?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for choosing to die for you over everything else
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not keeping Jesus first above all else
- ~Ask God to make you totally sold-out to Him