

<b>ACTION STEPS FOR THE WEEK</b>	
<b>Monday</b>  <b>Action Step 1</b>	Think about how you relate to Christ. Are you a fair-weather fan or a totally committed follower?
<b>Tuesday</b>  <b>Action Step 2</b>	Don't skip by question 4 too quickly. Spend time thinking it through.
<b>Wednesday</b>  <b>Action Step 3</b>	If you are hiding anything from Christ and the world, it is time to hand it over. Christ knows about it already. Get on your knees, confess your sin, and start fresh!
<b>Thursday</b>  <b>Action Step 4</b>	
<b>Friday</b>  <b>Action Step 5</b>	As with Tuesday, don't skip by question 4 too quickly. Take the time you need with it.
<b>Saturday</b>  <b>Action Step 6</b>	
<b>My biggest area for prayer and work this week</b>	

DAILY DEVOTIONS

**ARE YOU A FAN OR A FOLLOWER?**



*Then Jesus 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." ~ Luke 9:23*

## MONDAY

### READ: John 3:1-21

If you head over to dictionary.com and try to look up the word “rendezvous,” you will first probably discover that you spelled it wrong! Then, after noticing that it is spelled *nothing* like it sounds, you will see that it is defined as: *an agreement between two or more persons to meet at a certain time and place.*

While at dictionary.com, you can also look up the word “relationship.” After being thankful that English words are *much easier* to spell than French ones, you will notice that it is defined as: *an emotional or other connection between people.*

With these definitions in mind, the questions for us today are: Do I rendezvous with Jesus, or do I have a relationship with Him? Am I just someone who says, “Okay Jesus, I will meet you at church today on Sunday, but then we’ll head our separate ways until next week,” or am I someone who says, “Jesus, I want to connect with you all week. I want to be with you where you are”?

1. How does Nicodemus show he is only interested in a rendezvous with Jesus?
2. In verses 14-16, what does Jesus do to show the lengths He and the Father will go have a relationship with us
3. Are you someone who just rendezvous with Jesus at certain times during the week or year, or are you seeking a 24/7/365 relationship with Him?
4. What do you a 24/7/365 relationship would look like?

### PRAYER

- ◆ Thank Jesus for suffering and dying to make a way for you to have a relationship with Father God
- ◆ Confess to God, if necessary, going from one rendezvous after another with Jesus
- ◆ Ask God to guide you into a deep relationship with Jesus
- ◆ Ask God to show you what a 24/7/365 relationship looks like

## SATURDAY

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

Joe 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 full of anger and didn’t know why, and lived without any purpose. Then Christ came. The change was instant. Joe was filled with the joy of the Lord, stopped working on Sundays so he could be in church despite his financial struggles, and even started giving generously to the church.

This change was troubling to his family. They were glad he “found religion,” but he had a child to take care of and couldn’t just NOT work on Sundays or give money to the church. His parents begged him to “do all things in moderation.” Joe, however, refused to back down. He knew Jesus’ invitation was all or nothing. Moderation was not allowed.

Again, his name is Joe, and he is no longer just a fan.

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 this week of devos, are you a fan or a follower?

### 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
- ◆ Ask God to help you live as a follower and not a fan

## FRIDAY

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

On a business trip in India, Amy Turner was sitting in taxi during a traffic jam. Suddenly, a woman in the street shoved a baby through the window of the taxi and told Amy to take the little child to America to give her a better life. This was a moment that would change Amy forever.

Amy began visiting a shelter for the children of “sex workers” for the rest of her stay in India. When she returned home, she knew that to follow Jesus she must do something and do it now. Amy, with some others, started a non-profit organization to reach out with God’s love to forgotten children living in unspeakable darkness and desperation.

Again, her name is Amy, and she is no longer just a fan.

1. As we looked at on Monday, 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,” “kill,” 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
- ◆ Ask God to guide you into a deep and abiding relationship with Himself

## TUESDAY

### READ: Luke 9:21-27; Luke 14:25-35

Kyle Idleman, in his book *Not a Fan*, writes, “Jesus was never interested in having fans. When He defines what kind of relationship He wants, ‘Enthusiastic Admirer’ isn’t an option. My concern is that many of our churches in America have gone from being sanctuaries to becoming stadiums. And every week all the fans come to the stadium where they cheer for Jesus but have no interest in truly following Him. The biggest threat to the church today is fans who call themselves Christians but aren’t actually interested in following Christ. They want to be close enough to Jesus to get all the benefits, but not so close that it requires anything from them.”

1. How does Jesus define the relationship He wants to have with us in verse 9:23?
2. How does He define the relationship in verses 14:26,27, and 33?
3. Is this the kind of relationship you have with Jesus? Why or why not?
4. If you answered “no” above, what will help you move from being a fan to a follower?

### PRAYER

- ◆ Thank Jesus for denying Himself, picking up His cross, and going to die for your sins
- ◆ Confess to God, if necessary, living like a fan who wants all of Jesus’ benefits but doesn’t want to make any sacrifices
- ◆ Ask God to help you live for Him and for His kingdom
- ◆ Ask God to help you deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow Him

## WEDNESDAY

### **READ: Matthew 23:13-36**

Robert Reschar was not only good at keeping secrets, he was a pro. To his wife, kids, friends, co-workers, and fellow churchgoers, 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 wife got him into counseling and therapists. When that didn't work, she threatened to leave him. That didn't work either. Finally, he 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.

Again, his name is Robert, and he is no longer just a fan.

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
- ◆ Ask God to guide you to accountable relationships

## THURSDAY

### **READ: Matthew 27:26-56**

When Ron Harshfield's wife died suddenly, he felt as if he had pretty much been killed too. To deal with the pain of her absence, he drank nearly all the time. One night, drunk and depressed, he stumbled out of a bar, into his truck, picked up his shot-gun and shot himself in the head. That would not be the end of the story.

His neighbors, the Hadley's, had been praying for him since his wife's death. After getting out of the hospital, the Hadley's invited him over and then invited him to their small group. It was there that he learned of a Savior who died a terrible death so that he could have new life. Ron gave his heart over to the Lord and every day wakes up and commits himself to lose his life in the One who gave up His life for him.

Again, his name is Ron, and he is no longer just a fan.

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, not being willing 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