

THE FOLLOW UP

LIES — PART 2

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



For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. ~ 1 Peter 1:18,19

DEVO #1—What Are You Following?

READ: Jeremiah 17:1-10; Matthew 15:10-20

There are many bad ideas and influences out there! For example, whose idea was bell-bottom pants? Really, when it comes to a lot of ideas and influences, it is not a good idea to look to most human ideas or solutions. Most of them are not good. One especially "not good" idea is the one that tells us to follow our hearts.

God (in Jeremiah) and Jesus (in Matthew) are pretty clear that our hearts (and the hearts of those around us) are not in the best shape to say the least. We humans don't always make the best choices. (Just ask the guy who invented handerpants.) The only way to be assured of a right choice every time is NOT to follow your heart (or those following their hearts) but to follow Christ.

1. How many times do you think you have heard "follow your heart" in the past 12 months?
2. What is the difference between those who trust in humans and those who trust in God according to Jeremiah 17:5-10?
3. When it comes to life-decisions, how do you usually go about making these decisions? Is your method God's way?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for having all the wisdom you need in life
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, making decisions based on what the world thinks instead of what God thinks
- ~Give a decision over to God and let Him show you the way to go

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Have an extended time with the Lord. Let Him begin to work on every inch of your life
- ◆ Look over your choices from the last week. Do they show you are following the crowd, the culture, or Christ?
- ◆ Keep praying at least ten minutes each day
- ◆ Consider your entertainment choices. How do they effect who 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: 1 Corinthians 11:1

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

If you called on people to follow you, would that move them closer to the Lord or further away? Explain your answer:

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask Him to mold you into someone who follows Christ with total heart, soul, mind, and strength. Then seek to hear His voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — Not Good!

READ: Romans 3:10-26

Did I mention before that we humans don't always make the best choices? Don't believe me? Well, how do you explain people wearing Snugglies or a Forever Lazy?!

So, when you hear, "Just follow the star in your own heart" (Home Alone 2); or "Be true to yourself and follow your heart" (Raise Your Voice); or "All I can say is, follow your heart. It'll tell you what's right" (Lizzie McGuire); or even "Just follow your heart, and go as far as your dreams" (Cinderella 2); it is probably not the best idea to buy in.

If you're going to buy into something, try God. You won't go wrong there. (Besides, I'm pretty sure He wouldn't say, "Hey, why not buy a Forever Lazy. It has a hatch in the back!")

1. How do verses 10-18 go about describing people?
2. How did God make a way for dealing with all of our sins and stupid mistakes according to verses 23-25?
3. Have you been guilty of following people and what the culture says, instead of following what God says?
4. If so, what should you do about this?

PRAYER

~Thank God for sending Christ to deal with your sin problem
~Confess to God, if necessary, following the culture not Him
~Ask God to help you center your life on Him

DEVO #3 — Are You 24/7/365 for Jesus?

READ: Luke 9:23-27; Romans 8:5-14

If someone invited you to play "Pet the fifteen-foot Great White," how interested would you be in playing? I hope you wouldn't be all that interested!

But what about if people invited you to follow your heart, chase after your dreams, or join them as they follow their hearts and chase after their dreams? Would you be interested then?

Some people say they are NOT followers. But, really, we ALL are followers. All of us will either follow the culture, follow the crowd, or follow Christ. It doesn't take any work to follow the culture or the crowd. Doing nothing will cause you to just drift along with the culture and the crowd. To follow Christ, though, you need to make a conscious effort. You need to make a choice. What have you chosen?

1. What does Jesus say in Luke 9:23?
2. In Galatians 8, we learn that we all will either follow the Spirit or our own sinful nature. Which one are you following?
3. If you really lived following the Spirit, would your life look any different than it does now?
4. If you answered "yes" to question 3, what needs to change, and when will you start making those changes?

PRAYER

~Thank Jesus for giving you Himself to follow
~Confess to God, if necessary, following the culture or crowd
~Ask God to strengthen you to follow Christ 24/7/365

DEVO #4 — Holographic Christianity

READ: Ephesians 5:1-20

Have you ever gotten one of those holographic pictures out of a cereal box or something? Not sure what a holographic picture is? Well, it is a picture that changes appearance depending on what angle you are looking from. For example, looking straight on, a person in this kind of picture could appear to be catching a football. But then, tilt the card forty-five degrees to the left and suddenly it looks like he is throwing it.

Sometimes, we Christians can be much like a holographic picture. When we are with one group of people (say parents, a pastor, teachers), we are one way. However, when we are with another group of people (say peers, classmates, friends), we act the exact opposite. There is a name for this in humans. It is not *holograph* though. It is another "H" word: hypocrite.

1. According to verses 1 and 2, how should we be acting in EVERYTHING we do and at EVERY PLACE we are?
2. Verse 8 says "live as people of the light." What do you think that means?
3. If you lived out verses 15-20, would your life look WAY different than it does right now, or would it be about the same?
4. What can help you avoid being a hypocrite?

PRAYER

~Thank Jesus for giving you an example to follow
~Confess to God, if necessary, living like a hypocrite sometimes instead of like Christ all the time
~Ask God to guide you so your walk matches your talk