

THE FOLLOW UP

WHO DO YOU FOLLOW?

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



Jesus said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it." ~ Luke 9:23-24

DEVO #1—Where's Your Citizenship?

READ: Philippians 3

A quick look for the definition of "citizenship" online will help you find this information—"Citizenship is the state of being a citizen of a particular social, political, national, or human resource community. Citizenship status...carries with it both rights and responsibilities. Active citizenship is the philosophy that citizens should work towards the betterment of their community through economic participation, public, volunteer work, and other such efforts to improve life for all citizens."

When we choose to accept Christ and put Him first, we become citizens of Heaven. As with national citizenship, this heavenly citizenship carries with it *rights and responsibilities* as we seek to live like "active citizens" for God's kingdom.

1. As you look again at verses 18-20, would you say you are living more like a citizen of heaven or citizen of our American culture?
2. In verses 1-6, Paul talked about all he did to live as a "good Jewish citizen," then he met Christ and became a citizen of heaven. What changed according to verses 7-11?
3. Has this kind of change taken place in your life? Explain:
4. What does Paul call people to do in verse 17? Can you say this being confident that those who follow you will draw closer to Christ?

PRAYER

~Thank God for the change that Christ can do in your life
~Confess to God, if necessary, not living as a citizen of Heaven
~Ask God to help you live for Him and for His kingdom

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Review an average week. How do you go about making decisions? Are your decisions based on Scripture, your friends, your own desires, the culture, etc.?
- ◆ Make of list of Christ's attributes based on Scripture, then make a list of your own attributes. How do they compare?
- ◆ Keep praying at least ten minutes each day
- ◆ Ask the people close to you whether or not they see Christ in 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 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: Luke 9:23-24

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain these verses in your own words:

Who have you been following? The crowd, the culture, or Christ?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart and to show you where you are too much like the culture and not enough like Christ. Then seek to hear His voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — What's Your Focus?

READ: 1 John 2:1-17

When the Roman city of Pompeii was being excavated, archeologists uncovered the body of a woman mummified by the volcanic ashes of Mount Vesuvius. Her position told a tragic story. Her feet pointed toward the city gate, but her outstretched arms and fingers were straining for something that lay behind her. The treasure for which she was grasping was a bag of pearls. The focus of her life at that point would be her undoing.

This truth is no less true for each of us today. The focus of our lives can be our undoing. That woman's focus on temporary treasure cost her dearly. Likewise, our pursuit of temporary things can cost us equally as much.

1. What does John say about this in verses 15-17?

2. What are you focused on?

3. How well are you doing at verses 5 and 6?

4. What kind of accountability is in your life to help you focus on the things of God and not the things of this world?

PRAYER

~Thank God for the people in your life that help turn your head to the eternal and away from the temporary

~Confess to God, if necessary, a focus on this world over a focus on Christ

~Ask God to place people in your life who will help you focus on the eternal things and to live your life like Christ

DEVO #3 — Triple Truths

READ: Joshua 24:1-28

Over the triple doorways of the Cathedral of Milan, there are three inscriptions spanning the splendid arches. Over the first grand doorway, a beautiful stone carving of a wreath of roses. Etched below that carving are the words "All that which pleases is but for a moment." Over the next is a sculptured cross with the words, "All that which troubles us is but for a moment." Finally, spanning the third and grandest arch is the phrase, "That only is important which is eternal."

If we always realize these three truths, we will not be distracted by the passing pleasures of this world nor be overwhelmed by the troubles of this life. Rather, we will stay steadfastly focused on the permanent and the eternal—on the things of God.

1. What choice is Joshua calling the people to in verses 14 and 15?
2. The people stated that they would serve God, yet in verse 23 what are they still holding onto?
3. You may have made a profession to accept Christ and follow Him, but are you still holding onto things that are keeping you from living fully for Christ?
4. If so, what will you do with these things?

PRAYER

~Thank Christ again for giving His all for you, so that you could have new and eternal life
~Confess to God, if necessary, still giving center stage to the temporary and fleeting things of this life
~Ask God to help you "discard" anything that is taking first place in your life away from Him

DEVO #4 — Getting Your Glow On

READ: Acts 4:1-22

One summer day, a very light skinned young man was out in the sun for about three and a half hours. Now, he knew that he should have brought sunscreen because he burned really easily! But, of course, he forgot to bring any with him.

The next day, a Sunday, everyone in church could easily tell that he was out in the sun. Looking at his bright pink skin, many commented, "Wow! You got some sun. You are really red!" Trying to come up with a "churchy" response, he replied, "Well, Jesus says 'shine brightly,' so I'm trying!"

It is very easy for people to tell when the fair skinned among us spend time in the sun. But I wonder if it is very easy for people tell that we spend time with God's Son. Because, you know, if we spend time with Jesus, people should be able to tell!

1. What do the religious leaders recognize about Peter and the disciples in verse 13?
2. Can people recognize that you spend time with Jesus?
3. If someone asked you to describe Christ, how would you describe Him?
4. Do you look like that description? Why or why not?

PRAYER

~Thank Jesus for how great and awesome He is
~Confess to God, if necessary, looking too much like the world and not enough like Christ
~Ask God to guide you deeper and deeper into Christlikeness that you might point a lost world to Him