

THE FOLLOW UP

Be sure to get these **FOUR** devos and the Quiet Time Challenge done as well as read pages 175-211 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—Does Jesus Really Mean Wherever?

READ: Luke 9:57-62; 2 Corinthians 11:22-33

Obviously, if you claim to be a follower of Jesus, then that means you should be following Him wherever He goes. As Kyle Idleman writes, "I'm not sure how you can call yourself a follower of Jesus if you refuse to go where Jesus went." And where does Jesus go?

Jesus will take you to sinners who others wouldn't want to be seen with. He will take you to the sick that others try to avoid. He will take you to places where you may get covered in dust—and covered in blood. And He will take you to places that cause even fellow Christians and your family to call you crazy!

1. In Luke 9:57, someone says he will follow Jesus "wherever" He goes. Jesus then tells this person what that means and we never hear from him again. Why do you think that is?

2. From 2 Corinthians 11, list some of the many things Paul endured for following Jesus "wherever":

3. Are you willing to follow Jesus wherever? What are some things that may hold you back?

4. Saying "yes" to Jesus, would mean saying "no" to what things?

PRAYER

- ~ Thank Jesus for following God's will to the cross, so that He could die for your sins
- ~ Confess to God, if necessary, wanting to follow Jesus—but only to certain places and in certain situations
- ~ Ask God to strengthen you to follow Jesus wherever He goes

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Read pages 143-172 in *Not a Fan*
- ◆ Spend time praying this week. Ask God, "Where am I blocking your work in and through my life?"
- ◆ Be praying about, and looking to see, what God wants you to be doing for Him in your home, at your school, in your neighborhood, at the church, in the community, etc.
- ◆ Look up ministries in the area. Be asking God where you could be serving Him
- ◆ Talk to a youth leader about how you can serve in the church
- ◆ Get a globe or a map and pick a country or state to pray for, then commit to pray for that country or state for the next thirty days

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: Galatians 2:20

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

How different would your life look if this verse was a reality for you?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask Him to show you where you are blocking His work in and through your life. Then seek to hear God's voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2—Busyness

READ: Matthew 7:21-27; Luke 12:13-21

Meet Emmay. She was one busy gal! Up at 6:00 am, she starts her day by getting ready for school. After a long day of school, she's off to drama rehearsal, then a quick dinner and off again to dance class. By the time dance class is over, it's around 9:00 pm, and Emma has just enough time to finish her homework before she crawls into bed around midnight ready to start it all over again the next day.

Can you relate to Emma? You pack your days with school, sports, hobbies, video games, TV, friends, etc., yet you leave no time for God. The One who created you gets no time with you. And the reason He created you never gets fulfilled.

1. In Matthew 7, Jesus talks about people busy doing stuff—even good stuff. However, because it was not the stuff God wanted them to do, what did Jesus say would happen?
2. In Luke 12, the rich man is busy building up his life. What does he have to show for it in the end?
3. What does Jesus say in verse 21?
4. Do you spend time *daily* with the Lord?

PRAYER

~Thank God for the great plan He has for your life
~Confess to God, if necessary, making yourself too busy
~Ask God to focus you on Him and His will for your life

DEVO #4 — Surrender Self — Part 2

DEVO #3 — Surrender Self: Part 1

READ: 1 Timothy 4:6-16; 6:11-16

Consider the true story of high-schooler Serena. For years, she tried very hard to dress and act like the rest of the girls at her school. However, after reading a Christian book, she was convicted of dressing immodestly and not valuing the standards of purity God has set forth in His Word.

After prayer, she decided to start a website dedicated to purity and modesty. She asked a friend to develop the site for her and then, with her best friend, handed out flyers to all the girls at school, encouraging them to visit the site. Serena says that she doesn't know what the next step in her journey will be, but she is glad she trusted God with that first big step!

1. According to verse 4:8, why is spiritual training more beneficial than physical training?
2. In what five areas should you be an example according to verse 4:12?
3. Are you an example in these areas, or do you follow others?
4. What does Paul tell Timothy to pursue in verse 6:11? What will you spend your life pursuing?

PRAYER

- ~ Thank God for people who have been great examples in your life
- ~ Confess to God, if necessary, not pursuing the right things
- ~ Ask God to strengthen you to follow Jesus

READ: 1 John 5

Be inspired by the true story of Cale. Addicted to pornography, he spent hours searching it out on his phone and laptop every week. It was truly consuming His life.

Realizing that he could never honor the Lord so long as porn remained an idol, lustful images ran rampant in his mind, and secrets stayed stored in his heart, he went to his dad and confessed everything. Voluntarily handing over his phone and laptop, he told his dad to keep them hidden for at least a month, and then only give them back after they had been loaded with filters and accountability software.

Cale also joined the Celebrate Recovery group at his church. Even though he was the only teenager in that group, he knew it was what he needed. Now in college, Cale says it isn't always easy to stay surrendered, but it has been the best decision he has ever made.

1. What does John say in verses 2-5?
2. Have you been gaining victory over the sin in your life? Where do you need God's power to go to work?
3. What are you doing to ensure that verse 21 is true for you?
4. What are you holding onto that needs to be surrendered because it is taking too much time away from the Lord?

PRAYER

- ~ Thank God for the plan He has for your life
- ~ Confess to God, if necessary, holding onto things that are keeping you from all that He has for you
- ~ Ask God to show you what you may have, or be doing, that is taking away from His plan for your life