

1. Idelman, Kyle, *Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus*, Zondervan, 2011
2. IBID
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THE FOLLOW UP

You have **SIX** days to get these **FOUR** devos and the Quiet Time Challenge done as well as read pages 11-28 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

DEVOTION #1—Define the Relationship

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

Kyle Idleman 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

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, & 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 deny yourself and live for Him

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Read pages 11-28 in *Not a Fan*
- ◆ Ask people close to you if they think you are more of a fan or more of a follower of Jesus
- ◆ Be sure to have a prayer time at least ten minutes each day
- ◆ Think about the areas of your life that are not as they should be. Commit to making the changes necessary

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: Ephesians 5:1-2

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain these verses in your own words:

How are you doing at imitating God and following Christ? Explain:

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart and to show you areas where you are more fan than follower. Then seek to hear His voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVOTION #2 — All In or All Out

READ: Matthew 7:13-29; Revelation 3:14-22

Meet Joe—a real guy who went from fan to follower. Joe was a college student living all for himself—girls, parties, drinking binges, and doing drugs. He showed up to work or class with a hangover more times than not, was full of anger and didn't know why, and lived without any purpose. Then Christ came and changed Joe's life. He was filled with the joy of the Lord, stopped working on Sundays so he could be in church despite his financial struggles, and started giving generously to the church.

This change was troubling to his family. They were glad he "found religion," but he had college to pay for and couldn't just NOT work on Sundays nor "hand out" 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.²

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. What does Jesus do with "the lukewarm" in Revelation 3?
3. Have you been guilty of being more fan than follower? If so, what will you do about it?

PRAYER

- ~Thank God for the truth of His Word
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, a lack of obedience to Him
- ~Ask God to lead you away from a lukewarm life
- ~Ask God to strengthen you to live as a follower and not a fan

DEVOTION #3 — Fan or Follower

READ: Matthew 19:16-30

Meet Gary—a real guy who went from fan to follower. Life seemed great for Gary. He had left his family so that he could be free. Free to spend his money his way, free to hang out with friends as much as he wished, and free to party as he wanted. He said “yes” to everything he wanted and denied himself nothing. Then, he got caught stealing on the job. Immediately fired, he no longer had the income to live the life he wanted, nor could he pay his bills. Then the police came calling.

With his old life dead, he began reading the Bible. In the process, he started saying “no” to himself and “yes” to Jesus. He soon gave himself over in complete surrender to Christ.³

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

1. Why did the rich young man say “yes” to himself and “no” to Christ?
2. Are you, like the rich young man, having trouble giving up something in your life for more of Christ?
3. The young man was able to keep all of his things, but in the process lost Jesus. If Christ was outside your house right now bidding you to give up all to follow Him, would you choose Him or the life you are living right now? Explain:

PRAYER

- ~Thank Christ again for giving His all for you, so that you could have new and eternal life
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not living for Him but for yourself
- ~Ask God to help you “discard” anything that is taking first place in your life away from Him

DEVOTION #4 — I'm Not As Bad As Her!

READ: Matthew 23:23-28; 2 Corinthians 10:9-12

Fourteen year-old Sarah was seething at her parents. They had just said, “No,” after she asked to sleepover Jessica's. Sarah was so upset, she screamed at her mom, throwing in a few profanities for good measure. Mom was none too pleased.

“I'm not as bad as Jessica!” Sarah defended herself when Mom threatened consequences, “she curses at her parents all the time.”

“That's one of the many reasons why you can't sleepover.” Mom shot back. “And since when do we determine acceptable behavior by comparing ourselves to our friends?”

It is easy to make the same mistake as Sarah. We say, do, think, or choose something we should not, then, instead of owning it, we justify ourselves by pointing to someone who is worse (and throw that someone under the bus at the same time!)

1. What does Jesus say about the Pharisees in Matthew 23?
2. So focused on how they were perceived, the Pharisees had let their insides turn to sinful slush. How about you? What is your main concern? How people view you or the condition of your heart?
3. Why was Paul upset with some of the Corinthians?
4. Do you compare yourself to others doing worse than you or to Christ and His Word?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for giving you a great standard to follow
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not living out that standard
- ~Ask God to help you stop focusing on the outside or on what others think and, instead, focus on Him and what He thinks