

Quotes from:

Idleman, Kyle, *Not a Fan: Teen Edition: What Does It Mean to Really Follow Jesus*, Zondervan, 2012

Chan, Francis, *Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God*
David C. Cook, April 2013

THE FOLLOW UP

You have **SIX** days to get these **FOUR** devos and the Quiet Time Challenge done as well as read pages 115-141 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 Anyone?

READ: Luke 9:23-25; Matthew 9:9-13; Acts 8:3; 9:1-6

You read about Jesus calling "anyone" to follow Him, yet you still might be thinking, "Jesus really means 'anyone but me.'" Perhaps you think you are too young or that you don't know enough about Him to really follow. Perhaps you think you have sinned too much or turned your back on God one too many times. Perhaps you even think that the stains on your heart or the mistakes you have made disqualify you from ever being used by God.

If Satan has filled your mind with such thoughts, then let the true stories of Matthew and Saul show you otherwise. Matthew was a hated tax-collector. His best friends were known as "scum" (NLT), and he was known for cheating his own people while working for the enemy. Meanwhile, Saul was known for doing worse than cheating his own people. He was known for throwing them into prison and killing them! Yet, Jesus reached out to both.

1. What are some things about your life that tempt you to believe that you are unfit to follow Jesus?
2. What were Matthew and Saul known for?
3. Even though they were known for these things, what did Jesus call them both to do?
4. In spite of their pasts, Matthew and Saul both said "YES!" to Jesus and did great things. What will you say to Him?

PRAYER

- ~ Thank Jesus for calling *anyone* to follow Him
- ~ Confess to God, if necessary, not listening to Jesus' call
- ~ Ask God to strengthen you to follow Jesus

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Read pages 115-141 in *Not a Fan*
- ◆ Spend time praying this week. Ask God, "Show me how I can serve you RIGHT NOW..."
- ◆ Don't go into situations seeking to be blessed. Go into situations seeking to bless others
- ◆ Think about if you have settled for low expectations and have viewed your "pre-teen/teen years" as a vacation from "real life" until you are an adult. If so, tell God you are sorry, and pray the prayer at the second bullet point
- ◆ Start giving at least 10% of your money to the church, or to some missionary
- ◆ Talk to a youth leader about how you can serve in the church

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: John 3:30

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

What is John the Baptist basically saying in this verse?

How is this happening in your life on a day by day basis?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask Him to show you where you are too much and He is too little. Then work to hear God's voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — Wholehearted or Half-Hearted?

READ: Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Romans 6:12-23

Green Bay Packers' fans are some of the toughest in the business! Many of them drive for hours to get to Lambeau Stadium. Once there, they spend the next three plus hours of a Sunday afternoon standing, clapping, cheering, shouting, and more. All in minus fifteen degree wind-chill!!!

Yet, what about Sunday mornings? Does a little rain keep them from the church? A little snow? If they do come to church, do they sing loudly and clap, or do they quietly worship God with no loud voices, no clapping, and/or no excitement? Yes, many people seem to be wholeheartedly devoted to something other than Jesus while only half-heartedly devoted to Him.

1. Is there a sport, hobby, celebrity, or something else that you are really passionate about and devoted to?
2. If you were reading from the NLT version of the Bible, you would have seen the words "wholeheartedly" and "completely" several times. Why does God expect us to be completely devoted to His Son, Jesus?
3. How devoted and passionate are you about Jesus? Is it a devotion greater than what you wrote under #1?

PRAYER

~Thank Jesus for being devoted enough to you to die for you
~Confess to God, if necessary, being more devoted to a sport, hobby, celebrity, etc. than you are to Jesus
~Ask God to fill you with a great desire to follow Jesus

DEVO #3 — Am I Crazy for Jesus?

READ: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; 1 Peter 4:1-5

Francis Chan, the author of the Christian book *Crazy Love*, writes, "The God of the universe — the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies and e-minor — loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss.

Whether you've verbalized it yet or not, we all know something's wrong. Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer...isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts — it's falling in love with God."

1. Have you ever done anything for Jesus that makes people think you might be crazy?
2. Why does Paul, in 1 Corinthians, say that many people think the message about Jesus is crazy and something only fools believe in?
3. What does Peter say your friends might think of you if you totally forsake sin and totally sell-out to Jesus?
4. Are you known as someone who is crazy for Jesus? Why or why not?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for loving you beyond all possible measure
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not being crazy for Jesus
- ~Ask God to use you to do "crazy things" for Jesus

DEVO #4 — NOW!

READ: Mark 1:16-20; Acts 8:26-40; 2 Corinthians 6:1,2

It is always a temptation to tell Jesus that you will start following Him "tomorrow." "Just let me finish school, then I will follow." "Just let me get a job, get married, and settle down somewhere, then I will follow." But the problem with "tomorrow" is that "tomorrow" becomes "never."

Don't tell Jesus you'll deal with that secret sin tomorrow. Don't tell Jesus you'll start praying and being generous tomorrow. Don't tell Jesus you'll tell someone about Him tomorrow. And don't tell Jesus you'll surrender tomorrow. Today is the day!

1. When Jesus called the disciples to follow Him in Mark 1, how long did it take them to start following?
2. When the Holy Spirit was guiding Philip in Acts 8, how long did it take him to start obeying the Spirit's leading?
3. When does 2 Corinthians 6 say we should start following?
4. Are you guilty of repeatedly telling Jesus "tomorrow"?
5. When will you begin *completely* following Jesus?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for His great plan for your life
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, constantly telling Jesus "tomorrow"
- ~Ask God to strengthen you to follow today—and every day