

Craig's story is found in:
Idleman, Kyle *Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed
Follower of Jesus*, Zondervan, 2011

THE FOLLOW UP

You have **SIX** days to get these **FOUR** devos and the Quiet Time Challenge done as well as read pages 29-68 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—One-Time Decision or Totally Committed

READ: Isaiah 54:4-10; James 4:4-10; 1 John 2:15-17

You may have a **very** big day waiting for you in eight to ten years or so. A day when you will be standing inside a church—in front of God, a pastor, many friends, and family members. Your eyes will be locked onto the one standing next to you—the one you will soon marry.

Inside that church, you will pledge life-long love and devotion. You will exchange rings which symbolize the life-long pledge you have made before God and man. You will leave that church all smiles and full of great expectations.

But what if on your honeymoon, you start noticing your spouse eying up others, leaving in the middle of the night for several hours, and spending more time with strangers than with you? What kind of pledge would you think your spouse just made?

1. How does God refer to His relationship with us in Isaiah 54?
2. Since God looks at our relationship with Him like a marriage relationship, what kind of pledge does He expect you to make?
3. What does James call us when we become "friends with the world"? Why does he use this term?
4. Do you tend to choose the movies, music, TV of the world over Jesus? Do you follow friends more than Christ?

PRAYER

- ~ Thank Jesus for putting you first and dying for your sins
- ~ Confess to God, if necessary, being too friendly with the world
- ~ Ask God to strengthen you to keep your pledge every day

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Read pages 29-68 in *Not a Fan*
- ◆ Think about what you value most. What takes up your time and energy each day? Is Jesus at the top of the list?
- ◆ Be sure to have a prayer time at least ten minutes each day
- ◆ Think about the areas of your life that compete with your relationship with the Lord. Work on 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: John 3:16

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

Knowing God that loves you enough to give up His one and only Son, how does that effect the way you live your life?

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.)

DEVO #2 — Know About Jesus or Really Know Him

READ: John 17:1-3; Luke 7:36-50

Meet Craig. He grew up in a Christian home and knew all about Jesus. He knew how old Jesus was when He died, how long He hung on the cross, how long He was in the tomb, and on what day of the week He rose from the grave. More than that, Craig knew a lot of what Jesus had to say in the Bible and even had a few Bible verses memorized. By the time Craig graduated high school, he had an impressive record of Sunday School, youth group, and church attendance.

However, when Craig went off to college, it became pretty clear that Craig only knew *about* Jesus. He didn't really know Jesus. Craig joined a frat, partied most weekends and quite a few weekdays too. By his sophomore year in college, Craig's life was just about out of control, and Jesus was a distant memory.

1. What is the difference between knowing about someone and really knowing someone?
2. In John 17:3, when Jesus says that eternal life means to "know God and Jesus" what does that word "know" mean?
3. How did the woman in Luke 7 show that she really knew who Jesus was and also that she really wanted to live for Him?
4. What would it take for you to really know Jesus?

PRAYER

~Thank Jesus because He really knows you and loves you
~Confess to God, if necessary, that you have collected a lot of facts about Jesus but are not really living like you know Him
~Ask God to guide you closer and closer to Jesus each day

DEVO #3 — One of Many or One and Only?

READ: 1 Kings 19:11-21; Luke 9:57-62

Perhaps reading these two separate Bible passages today, you came away a bit confused. "What in the world does Elijah and Elisha have to do with Jesus and the three people He was talking to in Luke 9?" Well, that's a good question!

In 1 Kings, God was calling Elisha to follow unconditionally. To make sure that he would not have any competing loyalties, Elisha burned up his plow and his oxen team (basically saying, "I am leaving this job as a farmer to follow God, and I am **not** looking back.")

Meanwhile, in Luke 9, Jesus meets up with some people who want to "sort of" follow Him, but they have some things they aren't quite as willing to give up. So Jesus essentially says, "You are either for Me exclusively or this is not going to work."

1. When it comes to your relationship with Jesus, is it an exclusive relationship or is He one of many competing interests?
2. How you use your money says a lot about what matters most to you. So what does how you spend your money say about *your* relationship with Jesus?
3. How you spend your time also says a lot about what matters most to you. So, what kind of time do you give to Jesus each day? Each week? Does He have to compete with many things for your time, or does He get the "prime-cut"?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for valuing you so much that He willingly gave up His life for you
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, making Him one of many who must compete for your time, money, and heart
- ~Ask God to remove anything competing for your heart

DEVO #4 — Follow Through

READ: James 1:22-27; Luke 6:46-49

Remember the story from our small group time? You are struggling in your Biology class and the big final exam, worth more than 1/3 of your grade, is coming up, so you desperately need a study partner. You ask one of your friends who is doing pretty well in that class to come over and study with you during each of the two days before the big test. Your friend agrees and promises to be there. Two days before the test, you wait all day for your friend to come over...yet--no show. The day before the final—again, no show. You end up with a 67% on that final! Now, time to tell mom and dad.

1. What would you say to this friend who agreed to come and study with you but then never followed through?
2. What is Jesus saying in Luke 6?
3. What is James' main point in James 1:22-27
4. How are you doing at following through on living in a way that honors and pleases the Lord?
5. What might need some work?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for going all the way to cross for you
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not following through on your commitments to the Lord
- ~Ask God to help you follow through on your commitments to Him