

Don't Look Back, week 1: Follow Me

Follow Me

Day 1: The Cost of Following

Devotional: Following Jesus isn't a casual commitment. It's a life-altering decision that requires us to completely reorient our lives. In our world today, we're constantly told to pursue self-fulfillment and personal happiness above all else. But Jesus calls us to a radically different path - one that begins with denying ourselves. This isn't about self-hatred or punishment; it's about recognizing that our own wisdom, desires, and plans need to yield to His perfect leadership. When we choose to follow Jesus, we're choosing to let Him be the navigator of our lives, trusting that His way is better than our own. This might seem counterintuitive or even frightening at first, but it's actually the pathway to true freedom and fulfillment.

Verse: "Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.'" - Luke 9:23-24

Question: What areas of your life are you still trying to control rather than surrendering to Jesus' leadership?

Prayer: Lord, help me recognize where I'm still holding onto control. Give me the courage to fully surrender these areas to You, trusting that Your way is better than mine. Amen.

Day 2: Walking in His Dust

Devotional: In ancient Jewish culture, disciples would follow their rabbi so closely that they would become covered in the dust from their teacher's feet. This beautiful image illustrates what true discipleship looks like - staying so close to our Teacher that we're marked by His presence. Today, this means allowing Jesus to influence every aspect of our lives - our decisions, relationships, priorities, and daily habits. When we follow Him closely, people should be able to see evidence of Jesus in our lives.

Verse: "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" - John 8:12

Question: How would others know you've been with Jesus by observing your life today?

Prayer: Jesus, draw me closer to You. Help me follow so closely that Your character becomes evident in my life. May others see You in me. Amen.

Day 3: Daily Surrender

Devotional: Following Jesus isn't a one-time decision - it's a *daily* choice. Each morning presents us with new opportunities to either follow our own path or submit to His leadership. This daily surrender might look like choosing patience when we're frustrated, showing love to difficult people, or being honest when it would be easier to lie. It's about consistently choosing God's way over our own preferences. While this daily dying to self isn't easy, it's through this process that we experience true transformation and grow closer to Jesus.

Based on the sermons of Pastor John Markum. Reformatted with the help of AI.

Verse: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” - Galatians 2:20

Question: What specific choice can you make today that demonstrates putting Jesus’ will above your own?

Prayer: Father, give me the strength to choose Your way today. Help me see opportunities to deny myself and follow You more closely. Amen.

Day 4: Letting Go to Move Forward

Devotional: Growth in our spiritual journey often requires letting go of things that hold us back. These might be past hurts, comfortable habits, or even good things that have become too important. Just as a trapeze artist must release one bar to grab the next, we must release our grip on the familiar to embrace God's best for us. This isn't about losing everything - it's about exchanging what we *think* is best for what God *knows* is best. When we trust God enough to release what we're holding onto, we create space for Him to give us something better.

Verse: “Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” - Ephesians 4:22-24

Question: What are you holding onto that might be preventing you from fully embracing God’s plan for your life?

Prayer: God, show me what I need to release to follow You more fully. Give me the courage to let go of anything that hinders my relationship with You. Amen.

Day 5: Faith in Action

Devotional: True faith isn't just about what we believe - it's about how we live. It's easy to say we trust God, but our actions reveal what we truly believe. When we step out in obedience, even when it's difficult or doesn't make sense to us, we're demonstrating real faith. This might mean forgiving someone who hurt us, being generous when resources are tight, or speaking truth when silence would be easier. Each step of obedience strengthens our faith and draws us closer to God. Remember, God never wastes our faith, and every act of trust builds a stronger foundation for our spiritual journey.

Verse: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:11

Question: What step of faith is God asking you to take that you’ve been hesitating to make?

Prayer: Lord, increase my faith and give me courage to act on what I believe. Help me trust You enough to take the next step of obedience. Amen.

Recommended Playlist:

[*I Will Follow You*](#)

[*I Surrender*](#)

[*I Have Decided*](#)

[*No Turning Back*](#)