



# Following Jesus

## Daily Devotional

CHRISTOPHER D. HUDSON

**N**ot so long ago, “following” wasn’t much of a thing. But then—in a sort of digital Big Bang moment—the Internet exploded into existence. Soon some really young, really bright minds started inventing new, creative ways for people to connect and keep up with each other. In a flash, modern life became all about “following.” Suddenly we’re a race of followers—who have followers with followers!

Today you can go online and “follow” an acquaintance’s romance on Facebook, her career on LinkedIn, and her vacation on Instagram. You can “follow” the work of an innovative nonprofit via its website and weekly blog. With Twitter you can “follow” almost anyone—from the Pope to a big-name movie star to rank strangers. And if people you’re “following” on social media say or do things you don’t like, you can hit the “unfollow” button and instantly remove them from your “feed”—and your life.

Is all this what Jesus had in mind when he said, “Follow me”? A casual, distant relationship in which we check in with him once or twice a week? Adding his words to the thousands of other voices we’re following in our lives? Or did he mean something much, much deeper?

This little book explores what it looks like to follow Jesus in life-changing ways—while we live in a culture and during an age in which being a “follower” seems to mean less and less.

May God bless your efforts to get to know him better,  
Christopher D. Hudson

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## Following Jesus: The Power to Become

“‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said.”

—MARK 1:17

Why do we love TV shows that feature makeovers (of people, houses, etc.) or those that track unknown people becoming national singing sensations? Surely it’s because such stories remind us that change is possible; and deeper than that, they hint at the most miraculous transformation of all.

When Jesus began gathering followers, he essentially said: Follow me, and I will transform you into something you’re not. If you’ll come to me and remain *with* me, your life will never be the same. In the end, you’ll actually become *like* me.

This is why we come to Jesus. We come to him not only for forgiveness and the promise of eternal life—as amazing as those things are—but in order to *become like him*. Following Jesus isn’t about acquiring theological information. It’s embarking on a journey of personal transformation. It isn’t only about heaven one day; it’s about holiness right now.



## Reflection Question

What are some changes (transformations) that you would like to see in yourself as you embark on this journey of following Jesus?

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me new ways today to open my heart to your transforming presence. Amen.

## For Further Reading

Mark 1:16–20

The story of how Jesus called his first disciples.



## 2

### Discipleship: Being a Student-Follower

*“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.”*

—LUKE 6:40 ESV

**D**isciple is a churchy-sounding word. What does it actually mean?

In simplest terms, a disciple is a student. First-century Jews would approach a respected rabbi (a religious teacher) and essentially say: “I want to follow you and learn to think and act like you. I want to be your protégé. Will you mentor me?” If the rabbi saw spiritual potential in the applicant, he would take that new student under his wing.

Jesus flipped this custom. He approached some young men and challenged them to follow him—to become his students. They jumped at the opportunity.

To most onlookers, Jesus’ new disciples probably didn’t seem like “the cream of the crop.” Yet Jesus saw undeveloped potential in them. Sure enough, after three years of training, everyone could tell that Peter, John, and the rest were Jesus’ students because they bore a striking resemblance to him: “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they





were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).

## Reflection Question

What is the most exciting thing for you about being a student of Jesus? And what concerns (or worries) you about being Jesus’ protégé?

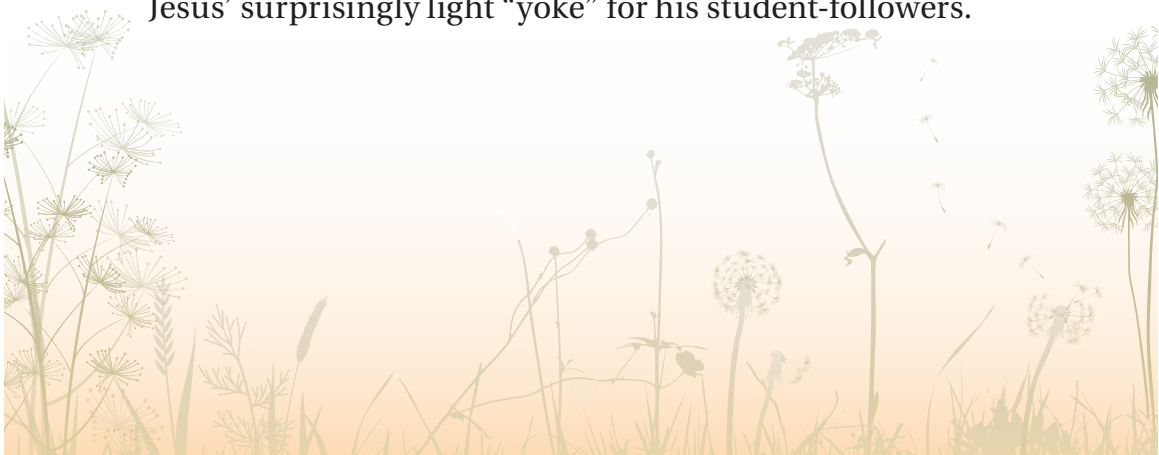
## Prayer

Lord Jesus, I want to be your student today—learning from you, emulating you, taking on your character. Amen.

## For Further Reading

Matthew 11:28–30

Jesus’ surprisingly light “yoke” for his student-followers.



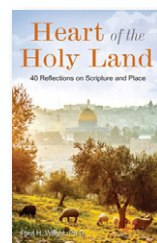


## Following Jesus Daily Devotional

Rose's Following Jesus Devotional invites you to journey through Scripture toward refreshment, intimacy with Christ, and a deeper understanding of what it means to walk with Him day by day. Discover the promise, hope, and everlasting life Jesus brings as you dive into Scripture and reflect on each devotion which covers life-changing topics.

Every page of this book is offered with the prayer that readers will follow Jesus more deeply, loving God and serving others a little more every day. Whether you're reading it with a disciple or as your own personal daily refreshment, the Following Jesus Daily Devotional will never leave you the same!

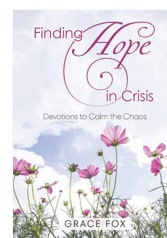
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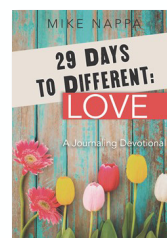
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