

The Gospel of Mark
Following Jesus
Mark 1:14-20

In *Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus*, Kyle Idleman asks an extremely important question—are you a follower of Jesus? We associate the word fan with “an enthusiastic admirer.” And while it might be good to be a fan of Jesus in that sense, being a follower of Jesus requires us to wrestle with this question: If today everything was taken away, and all that we had left was Jesus, would that be enough?

1. True followers will proclaim His message.
2. True followers will embrace His mission.
3. True followers will trust His means.

Being a follower of Jesus is more about repentance than forgiveness, surrender than salvation, and brokenness than happiness (Idleman, 16). To move from being a fan to a follower requires us to step outside of our comfort zones—to accept the sufficiency of what Christ has to offer and to reject the promises and wealth and security that the world offers. Jesus said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Lk 9:23).

For further consideration:

How would you respond if a non-believer asked you to summarize the good news in just a couple of sentences? In what ways is the kingdom of God already here? In what ways is it yet to come in the future? How is repentance related to confession and obedience? Do you see the assignment to “fish for men” involving grace or judgment? What did you have to give up in order to answer the call to follow Jesus? What steps do you need to consider taking (if any) that would begin to identify you publicly as a follower of Jesus? What choices need to be made with regard to the priorities of your life that would provide tangible evidence of your willingness to drop everything to follow Him?