"SEE ONLY JESUS"

Text: Matthew 17:8 - "And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only."

I love this verse because it says it all! When we focus on our Divine Lord and Saviour, Jesus, we realize no human on earth can possibly measure up.

Why do christians fall away? Sometimes, it's because they don't keep their eyes on Jesus and His Word. We don't follow people. When people do that, they will ultimately become disappointed!

I Cor. 11:1 - "...follow me, as I follow Christ."

This verse doesn't mean we follow people. These words were inspired from the Holy Spirit, written by Paul, the Apostle. What he meant in this particular verse was, what you see in me, and how I follow Him with all my heart, do the same. The only Person you should follow is Jesus. God has placed strong mentors, pastors and teachers into your life as an example for you to imitate. In other words, as these spiritual leaders passionately follow Jesus with all their hearts, listen and walk down the road of their wisdom, counsel and love for God. Keep in mind at all times, any leader, mentor or pastor is human and is always subject to error and disappointing you, as well. That's why Jesus is the ultimate example above all. Jesus is the only One who died on the cross and shed His perfect sinless blood for you to live in freedom and receive eternal life.

Ephesian 5:1 - "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children."

I Peter 2:21(b) - "...that ye should follow His steps."
Let's look at three half-hearted followers, as recorded in LUKE 9: 57 - 62.

1) Be Content. Luke 9:57 - "I will follow Thee whithersoever thou goest."

Ruth 1:6 / Phil. 4:11 / Matt. 6:33

2) No Excuses. Luke 9: 59 - "...suffer me first to go and bury my father."

Mark 16:15

Nothing wrong with burying your relatives. "Let the dead bury the dead" means there's always another person out there who can do what is delaying you to do for God. Satan will often use distractions and interruptions to hinder the call and purpose of God upon your life. Recognize it! Don't let distractions hinder your walk with God any longer.

(Pastor Jill gives example of the relative having the stroke, etc.)

3) God first. Luke 9:61 - "...let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house."

Luke 18: 29 & 30

Remember Lot's wife? Gen. 19: 17 & 26

God is above all of your family and friends. He wants to be. He has to be! Following God will cost you everything!

I Cor. 15:31 - "I die daily."

Lots of people only want to follow Christ when it's convenient. The truth is, we should follow Christ when it's not convenient. When
we're persecuted (II Tim. 3:12), misunderstood, forsaken, abandoned, desperate, full, or in lack, sick or in health, we follow Christ, faithfully.

I Cor. 4:2 - "...be found faithful."

As you keep your eyes focused upon Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith (Heb. 12:2), you will not waver in your allegiance or commitment to Him. It will be easier and easier to follow Jesus and see "Jesus only". It's not the distractions or detours that will hinder us anymore, because of our faith in Him. Our faith in Him is stronger than the pull (from satan) to follow anything or anyone else.

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