

# Believing Is Easy, Following Not So Much

Luke 9:23 (NIV 1984)

Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

## 1) Why Are You Here?

John 6:2 (NIV 1984)

and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick.

The crowd following Jesus came “because of the miracles.”

..... because of the spectacle.

..... not because of the teaching.

..... not because of the life changing lesson.

They were there for the show.

What is your because?

Is it because the seats are comfortable?

Is it because you really like the music?

Is it because you can make friends?

Jesus challenges the people to a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him.....

John 6:66 (NIV 1984)

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

A lot of them went home because Jesus says, “Let’s define what we’ve got here,” and what He offered isn’t what they wanted.

Why are **you here**?

For Jesus, his because is that He wants to have a deep relationship with you.

## 2) Are You **All In**?

Being a follower of Jesus requires complete commitment. A follower of Jesus will do whatever it takes to follow Jesus. They’re absolutely loyal, completely committed.

.....we prefer **selective** commitment.

.....customized **Christianity**.

..... **pick and choose** the areas in which I will follow Him.”

.....I’m not **all in**.”

.....you’re not a **Christian**. You’re more like an **Admirer**.

Surrendering Means....

There is no bargaining, no bartering, no finagling. When you decide to become a follower of Christ, you've got to go all in. And admirers, they don't like the idea of going all in. They're not wild about having to make sacrifices, or about having to deny themselves of something they desire or crave.

If you weren't here for the right reasons, chances are you won't be willing to go all in.

### **3) Have You Made It Your Own?**

If your faith isn't your own, if you aren't pursuing a relationship with Jesus, and you keep coming week after week and begin to create a "faith" that was someone else's in the first place, you're just numbing yourself to the real thing. You'll become numb to real faith, comfortable with a few songs and a few favorite verses, none of which requires any sacrifice or personal change.

Romans 10:17 (NIV 1984)

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Romans 1:16 (NIV 1984)

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

You have to make your faith your own.

Luke 14:26 (NIV 1984)

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.