

# I Have Decided 3

## September 2, 2012 | mediaatvictory.com

### Why do we follow Jesus?

- Because we love Him
- We are empowered to love Him because He loved us first.

**Luke 14:25-33** – <sup>25</sup> Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup> "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, pupil, apprentice, learner or follower.** <sup>27</sup> And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my **disciple, pupil, apprentice, learner or follower.** <sup>28</sup> "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup> "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> In the same way, any of you who does not **give up everything he has** cannot be my disciple.

### Is Jesus saying that following Him is a life void of enjoyment?

**No, He is saying to exchange your life, for His life lived in and through you!**

**John 12:25-26** – <sup>25</sup> The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me **must follow me**; and where I am, my servant also will be. **My Father will honor the one who serves me.**

### Why People don't Follow Jesus

#### **DEMAS:**

- Demas was a part of Paul's ministry and inner circle.
- He got there by following Jesus and yielding to the plan of God for his life.

**Philemon: 23-24** – <sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. <sup>24</sup> And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

**Colossians 4:14** - Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.

**II Timothy 4:10** - for Demas, **because he loved this world**, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.

**Whatever or whoever you love, you follow after.**

**I John 2:15-17** – <sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world — **the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life** — is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

**Lust of the Flesh:**

- Exalting what you **feel** above your love for Jesus

**Lust of the Eyes:**

- Exalting what you **see** above your love for Jesus
- The comparison trap

**II Corinthians 10:12** - For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

**John 21:18-23** – <sup>18</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." <sup>19</sup> This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "**Follow Me.**" <sup>20</sup> Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" <sup>21</sup> Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, **what is that to you?** You **follow Me.**" <sup>23</sup> Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, **what is that to you?**"

**The Pride of Life:**

- Exalting your **life** above your love for Jesus