

Whenever.

What about now?

I came across a letter I found written by a pastor called “No excuse Sunday” and I would like to share it with you.

The first wannabe follower that we looked at comes to Jesus. But this man has Jesus come to him. We don't know much about him other than the excuse he used for not following Jesus.

Luke 9:59-60 “He said to another man, “Follow me.” But the man replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my Father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the Kingdom of God.”

If this man had listened, we would likely be talking about the 13 disciples rather than the 12 disciples.

Jesus spoke the same two words to Mathew and the other disciples. He offered this man the same two word invitation that has been offered to you and me today, Follow me.”

Jesus doesn't seem too interested in this man's excuses, but I have to tell you it sounds reasonable to me. The real of it is, this man's father was more than likely alive and well. It's another way of saying, “when my parents die I will follow you.”

Its not that the guy isn't willing, it's just bad timing. He isn't saying no, he's saying “not right now.”

There are a lot of fans that have every intention on following Jesus one day but that day never seems to come. Now contrast this man's response with the first disciples that Jesus called to follow him.

Matthew 4:18-22 “As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into

the lake, for they were fisherman. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two brothers, James Son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him."

- Notice the responses, "At once" and "immediately." There is a tendency to treat our relationship with Jesus like the diet we keep meaning to start. I'm going to start eating right, as soon as I finished this chicken chimichanga.

Tomorrow for sure.

- When Jesus calls us to follow he means right now. He means today!!! So the real question today is, how long have you been saying tomorrow?
- For the fans that are always telling Jesus tomorrow, I've discovered that most often tomorrow only becomes today when tragedy strikes and dreams are shattered. After years of putting him off they finally give in.
- The Author of Not A Fan tells a story about his first car, a Plymouth Breeze. He said, "It seem like something was always wrong with that vehicle. At one point the check engine light came on. He opened the hood and that's where his knowledge of a motor ended.
- He didn't know what to do. If you're like me, when a light comes on in my truck, it drives me crazy until I get it checked out. He didn't have any money to get it fixed and everyone that got in the car would commit on it. So one day he got tired of looking at it and everyone else talking about it being on, so he did a really dumb thing and covered it up with electrical tape. Out of sight out of mind right? Until the car stopped and the transmission fell out.
 - See that blinking light is an early warning system and if you will pay attention to it you can save yourself a lot of trouble. The Lord allows these say blinking lights to go off in our lives too, but we try to cover it up and pretend like it isn't there.

- See the most dangerous part of following Jesus tomorrow isn't what you will lose between now and then. The worst thing that can happen is that tomorrow may never come.
- Have you ever heard of the "as now, so then" principle of human behavior? It's the idea that current habits are overwhelmingly the most likely predictor of future practices. Whatever decisions you make today will be the decisions you will make tomorrow. If you don't do it now then there is no reason you will do it tomorrow.
 - Hebrews 3:15 says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."
- The time is now. The day is today!! Don't tell yourself; tomorrow I'm going to surrender my secret sin. Don't tell yourself that tomorrow I'm going to be generous to those in need. Or go talk to my neighbor tomorrow. Do it while "it's still called today"!!!! Today is the day to start following!!!
- There was a 17 year old named Brittany Bevin who died tragically in a car accident, leaving her parents devastated. At her funeral her parents let the minister read the last entry in her prayer journal. It read, "You hold the only peace that can fill the deepest hole. But how do I get it? You said, "Ask and you shall receive." I am asking and I know you will give it to me. Every week you bless me so much and teach me lesson after lesson. I know that once again you are showing me your love. I can't fathom how much you feel when one of your children suffers, but I've had a glimpse of your heartache. Please fill me with your wisdom that I won't just watch others suffer, but that I'll be able to say what they need to hear. As a new week approaches, my dangerous prayer is that you'll place broken-hearted people in my path and fill me with you so that I can let your love heal their pain."

- Brittany had just opened up her first checking account and when her dad closed it he found that she had only written one check. It was to Compassion International to support a child.
- Never let tomorrow dictate today!!! Make a decision to follow!! “Let the dead bury the dead.”