



Follow

Jesus Says

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Well we're beginning a brand new series today called Follow, pretty excited about this and I want to welcome all of you who are joining us on television. Thanks for staying up late or getting up early. For those of you who are joining us online, for those of you who are at home, hotel rooms, hopefully you're driving but you're just listening, not watching. For those of you in the room, all of our Atlanta area campuses and our strategic partner churches all over the world. It's pretty exciting. Now if you fall asleep during the message today and you're thinking oh no I missed the end, you can go to this website right here and get the whole thing, Followseries.org, followseries.org. We're going to put all these messages from this series here. As always there will be some questions you can download so if you're tracking with us in your small group which I hope you will do it will allow you to ask some questions and talk about this stuff because the goal isn't for you just to hear me talk. The goal obviously is for us to wrestle with this material and figure out how it applies to our lives. So this will be there the whole time. You can go there, it will be there forever as long as there is an Internet, and it will be there.

Now to get us started today I want to tell you a little bit about my growing up in church. As most of you know I'm a pastor's kid so the whole church thing, I just grew up in it. Preacher's kids, we have an advantage. We see church differently than everyone else. I remember growing up and hearing people say oh we just felt the spirit of God in the room and I'm like no, the room was full. Whenever the room is full you guys seem to feel the spirit of God. Take that same group of people, plopping them in the dome, no spirit. So anyway, if we're not careful we can get a little bit weird and a little cynical but anyway I don't know where I got this because this is so wrong but when I was growing up especially I would say from high school, you know especially starting around then I kind of felt like the whole Christian life and all spirituality and religion was kind of a giant game of Jesus says, Jesus says. Now you've heard of Simon Says, you know Simon says, Simon says, oops Simon didn't say and so I don't know where I got this but I just felt like to be a Christian it was like Jesus says jump, you know Jesus says go to church, Jesus says pray, Jesus didn't say look over there. Oh but have you seen her you know and so it was just. And then if you know if Jesus didn't say then you were out and I liked being out of the game because life was easier and it was more enjoyable you know.

Then I would go to camp and it was like alright I need to get back in the Jesus says game, okay Jesus says pray, Jesus says read your Bible, Jesus says, Jesus says and the other thing I noticed about playing . . . approaching Christianity is Jesus says is when I was doing really well like I'm winning the game, everybody else is having to sit down but like Jesus look I'm doing what you say, when I would see people who weren't playing I would be so judgmental like well you need to play. Okay, if I'm going to be miserable, you're going to be miserable now get in the game and do what Jesus says. Those people aren't doing what Jesus says. You need to do what Jesus says. And so you know it didn't really work. I was inconsistent, the better I did the more judgmental I got, the more mean I got and I found myself I would sort of be jealous of people