



## Monday Matters October 7, 2013

### What Will Be On Your Tombstone?

Do you have a passion about something? What are you truly passionate about? Merriam-Webster, the dictionary people, define passion as an "intense, driving, or overmastering feeling or conviction". People get passionate about all kinds of things. People can be passionate about sports, reality TV shows, just about anything.

Some people are passionate about their jobs. Studies show that when an individual is passionate about their occupation they tend to be less obsessive about their behavior while on their job, resulting in more work being done and more



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work satisfaction. These same individuals have higher levels of psychological well-being. When people genuinely enjoy their profession and are motivated by their passion, they tend to be more satisfied with their work and more psychologically healthy.

A few weeks ago watching a church service on the TV (I was in the hospital over a Sunday), I heard about an organization called One Way Missionaries. The minister related this story about one such missionary.

*There was an era of missionary zeal around the turn of the 20th century that bred a group who became known as "one-way" missionaries. When they departed for the mission field they packed all of their belongings into a coffin and bought one-way tickets because they knew they'd never return home.*

*A.W. Milne was one of those missionaries. He felt called to a tribe of headhunters in the New Hebrides. All the other missionaries to this tribe had been martyred, but Milne didn't shrink back into safe Christianity. He lived among the tribe for 35 years, found favor, and never returned home. The tribe buried him and wrote the following words on his tombstone, "When he came there was no light. When he left there was no darkness."*

*What an incredible inscription of someone's life. Imagine what the church would look like today if every single follower of Christ returned to this spirit of missional living: the spirit of Jesus, Himself.*

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## Quote of the Week

"Nicodemus was ready to take his relationship with Jesus to another level, but it wasn't that easy. It never is. There would be much to lose if he went public as a follower of Jesus. What would people think if they found out that Nicodemus was an admirer of this homeless-carpenter-turned-rabbi from a nothing town called Galilee? At the very least he would lose his position in the Sanhedrin and his reputation as a religious leader. Being a secret admirer of Jesus cost him nothing, but becoming a follower came with a high price tag. It always does."

Kyle Idleman, "Not a Fan" (p. 29)

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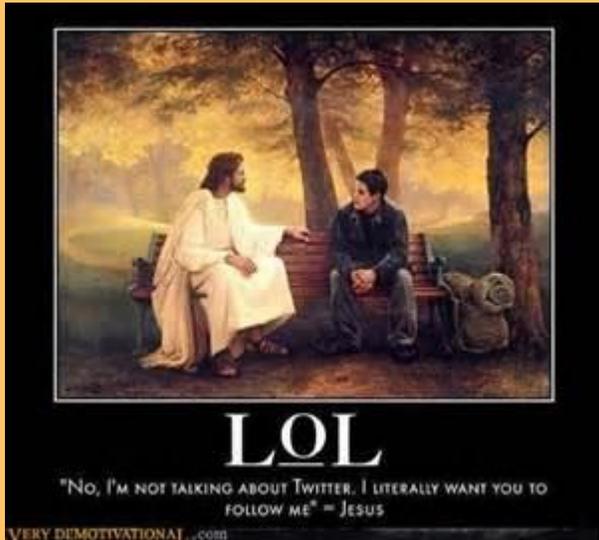
## Monday Matters

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The people who became part of One Way Missionaries were definitely passionate about being followers of Christ. They had an intense, driving conviction to follow where Christ wanted them to be. In Luke 9:23 it says, Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

Does that mean to be a follower of Christ you need to buy a coffin and move to some remote area of a third-world country? No! But it does mean we should look at where we are standing. That is our mission field and we should be just as passionate about where we are as those one way missionaries were. It is where we live and work and shop and eat. We need to take a look around us. Observe the people near us. See their needs and their brokenness and their humanity. Then love them. Affirm them. Speak to them and ask them questions about their life. This is our mission field. Share the love of Christ in words and actions. This is being a follower of Christ. Be passionate about it.

Again, the words on A.W. Milne's tombstone read: **"When he came there was no light. When he left there was no darkness."** What will be engraved on your tombstone? Will it tell of your passion to be a follower of Christ?

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