

Influencers

Ponder: Who influences you? Whom do you influence?

Scripture: "Immediately they left their nets and followed Him" (Matt. 4:20, NKJV).

Influencer: "One who exerts influence: a person who inspires or guides the actions of others (often, specifically: a person who is able to generate interest in something [such as a consumer product] by posting about it on social media)" (Merriam-Webster online dictionary).

Influencers come in all shapes and sizes. Their influence may be in politics, business, shaping popular opinion, or other areas of life. Influencers may be paid or unpaid. Their influence may be justified or unjustified.

What sorts of people are influencers? Some may be celebrities (actors, athletes, authors). If my favorite actress endorses a certain brand of cosmetics, I should buy some for my wife, right? If my favorite author speaks out for (or against) a certain social policy, then I'll take that position too. (But should I?)

Some influencers have well-earned reputations for knowing what they're talking about. We do well to give due consideration to their expertise. In other cases, the old line about "experts" is true: "An 'ex' is a has-been, and a 'spurt' is a drip under pressure."

Undoubtedly the greatest influencer for good in the history of the world is Jesus the Christ! As God in the flesh, He had every right to urge people to follow Him, and multitudes did. He certainly knew what He was talking about and invariably proved Himself trustworthy.

Let us show that we have been influenced by Him. Let us learn His word so that we know what we're talking about. Let us conduct ourselves uprightly, demonstrating that we are trustworthy. And let us be influencers, motivating people around us to surrender to the influence of Jesus.

Hymn: "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"

Prayer: Mighty God, we praise You for the influence of Your Son in our lives. Help us to resist being influenced by the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.