

## LET'S GO: Fan or Follower

When you say "YES" to Jesus.....WHAT IS NEXT??

IT IS THE BEGINNING OF A RELATIONSHIP THAT WILL LAST FOREVER!

AS YOU GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.....

.....YOU HAVE TO DECIDE: AM I "ALL IN"?????????

DIFFERENT LEVELS:

PLAYERS (just have fun....no commitment)  
DATING GAME (checking out the options)  
ON A MISSION (shopping for a spouse)  
COMMITTED (investing in ONE relationship)  
INFATUATION (WE SEE THROUGH "LOVE GOGGLES")  
MARRIAGE (TOTAL buy in.....for better for worse)

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A "DTR" TALK??

**-"Define The Relationship" TALK**

Over the next 5 weeks we are gonna have a "DTR" discussion with Jesus!

In Luke chapter 9, after Jesus had just fed 5000 people.....Jesus had a DTR with Peter!

**Luke 9:18-25** Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" <sup>19</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." <sup>20</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>21</sup> Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. <sup>22</sup> And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." <sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup> What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?

As SPIRITUAL as the disciples were....they always had trouble understanding THE MASTER PLAN!

I want to dig in to this one verse that clearly lays out how to be a follower of Christ:

**Luke 9:23 “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”**

-Jesus knew this was his LAST stop on the way back to Jerusalem to be crucified!

-2 weeks ago.....”I will build my church, and the gates of hell with not prevail”

BUT.....JESUS WAS PREPPING THEM.....IT WOULD NOT BE EASY!

There is a point in any relationship when you move from:

- convenient to committed
- taking to giving
- casual to close

**Many of us are ready to move past the casual and past the convenient into something more devoted, something more committed. So you’re ready for this talk.**

**The main question..... Are you a fan or a follower of Jesus?**

There is a HUGE difference between a “FAN” or a “FOLLOWER”

HOW MANY WATCHED THE VIKINGS GAME?

LOVE OF THE GAME

LOYAL TO TEAM

FAN OF THE TEAM

FOLLOWER OF THE TEAM

PART OF THE TEAM

DIFFERENT LEVELS!!

## ARE YOU A FAN OR A FOLLOWER?

We're all followers of Jesus, right? That's why we're here.

**The word fan is defined as “an enthusiastic admirer.”**

-We're all fans of different things, right?

We understand the concept of being a fan of sports.

Church can become a stadium full of “FANS” of Jesus!

-Like football....it is a once a week thing!

**We sit down in our seats and we look at our bulletins....applaud at certain times.**

**We leave somehow thinking that, as the fans, it was all done for us.**

**We get in the car and we evaluate the sermon, and we kind of give the service and song selection a thumbs up or thumbs down.**

**And we come back and do it again the next week.**

FANS CAN EASILY BECOME CRITICS!!!!

THREE QUICK QUESTIONS TO DETERMIN IF YOU ARE A FAN OR A FOLLOWER?

“DTR QUESTIONS”

### **1) Why Are You Here?**

In the gospels, there were different points when Jesus would DRAW A LINE IN THE SAND to separate the FANS from the FOLLOWERS!

In John chapter 6. Jesus is in the height of His ministry and we read that large crowds were following Jesus.

He was very popular. He was working miracles.

He was providing food from just five loaves of bread and a few fish, and a lot of people were in the crowd following Jesus.

But Jesus, in verse 2, reveals why they were coming.

**John 6:1-2** Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), <sup>2</sup> and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick.

THE MAIN REASON WAS THE MIACLES! WHAT CAN JESUS DO FOR ME???

**John 6:30** They answered, “Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do?”

-That’s a spot that is easy for all of us to get!

Laster in John 6.....Jesus was teaching in a local synagogue

Saying “He” was the bread of life and that he was sent by God!

Many were fans of Jesus for what HE could do for them, but when the miracles were over and Jesus was teaching how to follow him.....many left!

**“Many Disciples Desert Jesus”**

**John 6:60-68** On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup> Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! <sup>63</sup> The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. <sup>64</sup> Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.” <sup>66</sup> From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. <sup>67</sup> “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>62</sup> We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Sadly, many were there for simple selfish reasons and didn’t want to be a follower!

They loved the miracles.....but didn’t want to BELIEVE in Him as their savior!

-He met “IMMEDIATE NEEDS”.....but there was MORE!

Question one.....Why are you here?

Is it just because of what He can do for you?

Don't get confused, I love what Jesus can do for me....but is that why I follow him?

The second question we need to ask ourselves:

## 2) Are You All In?

A follower of Jesus will do whatever it takes to follow Jesus.

They're absolutely loyal, completely committed.

WE LIVE IN A NON-COMMITAL SOCIETY!

-kind of pick and choose different levels of commitment.

We can say..... "I'm going to follow Jesus, but I'm going to kind of pick and choose the areas in which I will follow Him."

So you say, "Well, I'll follow Jesus, but don't ask me to forgive the person that hurt me. I'm not going to let go of that resentment. I'm not going to let go of that bitterness. I deserve that."

And, "I'll follow Jesus, but don't talk to me about my money. I work hard for that money."

"I'll follow Jesus but don't tell me to abstain from my habits and hang ups that bring me joy. I can't help the fact that I have these desires. Don't ask me to abstain. I'm a follower of Jesus, but that won't stop me from getting what I want."

**So it's this CUSTOMIZED CHRISTIANITY that says, "Well, I follow Jesus, but only in the areas that are comfortable, only in the areas that I agree with.**

THAT IS NOT BEING ALL IN!!

Sanctification is a Journey of GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS!

-Becoming OBEDIENT to Him! LETTING HIM LEAD US!

So, in defining our relationship to Jesus, we've asked:

- 1) Why Are You Here?
- 2) Are You All In?

And now:

### **3) Have You Made It Your Own?**

How many of you started going to church because Mom & Dad MADE you??

Or maybe you started coming because of a boyfriend or girlfriend, or a spouse.

There has to be a point when your faith becomes your own!

Jesus isn't looking for a relationship between you, your mom, and Him.

He's not looking for a relationship between you, your wife, and Him.

**HE WANTS A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU!!!**

**WE ARE GOING TO "DTR" THIS RELATIONSHIP OVER THE NEXT 5 WEKS!**

ALTAR:

- 1) You want to join the journey from Fan to Follower?
- 2) Are there areas of CUSTOM Christianity in our life?
- 3) Have you made it your own?

**PRAYER TEAMS & TEXT FOLLOW JESUS TO 21000**