

## Open up

What is your favorite band of all time? Have you ever met them or felt a real connection?

## Discussion

Briefly recap the sermon's main idea: Are we fans (enthusiastic admirers) or followers (committed disciples)?

1. What stood out to you from the sermon?
2. How does the Coldplay illustration reveal the gap between "knowing about" Jesus and truly knowing Him?
3. Share one way you've experienced this gap in your own faith journey (ie, attending church but not feeling connected to Jesus daily, saying you believe but not feeling it).

**Read Matthew 7:21-23:** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

- What surprises you about Jesus' words here?
- How does this verse warn against being a "fan" who does religious things without a real relationship?
- How do these verses make you reflect on your own faith?

**Read Luke 9:57-62:** "As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus replied, 'Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.' He said to another man, 'Follow me.' But he 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.' Still another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.' Jesus replied, 'No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for service in the kingdom of God.'"

### 2. The First Fan: Comfort Over Commitment (Luke 9:57-58)

- In the sermon, Jesus challenges this man's love for comfort. How do we see this in modern life (e.g., choosing convenience over sacrifice)?
- Share an example from your week where comfort tempted you away from following Jesus more fully.

**Read Matthew 16:24:** "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'"

- What does "denying yourself" look like practically?
- How does this verse contrast with a "fan" mindset that avoids discomfort?

### 3. The Second Fan: Delaying for "First" Priorities (Luke 9:59-60)

- This man says "first let me..." putting other things before Jesus.
- Pastor Daniel saying this treats faith like a diet we plan to start "soon." Where do you see this in your life (ie, "I'll pray more when things calm down")?

**Read James 1:22:** "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

- How does being a "doer" (follower) differ from just hearing or good intentions (fan)? Share a time when procrastination kept you from obeying God.
- 4. The Third Fan: Looking Back Instead of Forward (Luke 9:61-62)
  - This person wants to follow but clings to the past or other priorities.
  - Pastor Daniel asks, Is Jesus your "one and only" or "one of many"? How do divided loyalties show up in our culture or personal lives?

**Matthew 10:37-39:** "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. <sup>38</sup>If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. <sup>39</sup>If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it."

- What relationships or things compete with Jesus as your top priority?
- How can we lovingly reorder our lives around Him?

### Application

The sermon challenges us to move from fan to follower by inspecting our beliefs, pursuing transformation over conformity, and committing fully. Let's apply this personally.

#### 5. Reflection Questions:

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate yourself as a follower (not a fan) of Jesus right now?
- What one area (comfort, priorities, obedience) do you sense God calling you to change?
- Based on the sermon and verses, what specific step will you take this week to deepen your relationship with Jesus (ie, daily Bible reading, forgiving someone, sharing your faith, sacrificing time/money)?
- If you're more of a "fan" or skeptic, what honest question do you have about Jesus? How can the group support you in exploring a real relationship?

**Action Challenge:** This week, read John 6. Journal your thoughts on Peter's response at the end: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Share one insight with the group next time.