

# not a fan.

COMPLETELY. COMMITTED. FOLLOWER.

## Week 1 - Fan or Follower?

### Lemonade Stand

- [2] Ever done one of these? Ever helped your kids do one? Ever think your kid would go on to do one as a profession? [3]
- Most don't, some do. This means there was a process.
- Small stand, 50 cents. Baseball game, charges more. Get's invited to events.
- The bigger it grows the more to keep track of. Lemon orders, spreadsheets, maybe people to coordinate, big time commitment.
- Eventually a choice has to be made: is this going to be my career? Maybe you've come to this kind of point in some other area of your life where you have to ask, "[Am I trying this out, or am I investing in it?](#)" [4] Translate to DTR moment with Jess.

### How about your relationship with Jesus?

- [5] Going to spend the next six weeks in this general area.
- Some of you are on first date with Jesus, not sure what to make of all this. Not quite ready for the talk. Sit back and listen, for now.
- Some of you need to have this talk with Jesus, to find out where you stand, to determine if you are just trying this out or are you going to invest in it.
- Some of you are are ready to move on with Jesus, to take it to that "next level."
- Some of you are not into this because you like things just the way they are with Jesus and his place in your life. Jesus is a nice guy, the church isn't too weird, you like the treats. Talk of a new level or deeper commitment triggers a fight or flight response, it wigs you out.

### In any case you need to ask yourself, "Where do I stand with Jesus? Am I a fan or a follower?"

- [6] Jesus' invitation to follow - [Luke 9:23](#).
- Wait, aren't people who call them selves Christian or go to church already followers of Jesus by definition? Let's talk about that.
- [7] A fan is an enthusiastic admirer. Everyone is a fan of something. Examples. [Jesus never cared about having fans.](#)
- What has been happening over the years is that the way church has been done for a while now has resulted in not much more than a stadium full of fans.
  - We sit down in our seats, open our programs, we applaud at certain times.
  - After we get in the car, talk about how good or bad the sermon was, how we did or didn't like the song selection.
  - Then we come back and do it again next week.

- Some of you are really big fans. You know many of the songs, you know where many of the books of the Bible are, you the fastest at getting to them, You have Air1 or The Fish programmed into your car radio and you know everyone on there.
- But again, **Jesus never cared about having fans.**
- So let's be honest with ourselves, search our hearts, and DTR with Jesus. There are some questions we need to answer. First

## Why are you hear? [8]

- More than once Jesus drew a line in the sand to separate fans from followers. **John 6.**
  - Had large crowds following. Why? Because He was doing miracles, saying radical things, and feeding thousands of people.
  - Realization in **6:2**. They weren't there for His teaching or the reconciliation with the Father that He came to bring, they were there for the show.
- Why are you here? What is your "because?" There are at least two dozen other churches in a town of nearly 25K from which to pick, a new one just opened up this morning! Food? Music? Chit-chat? Kid friendly? Safe spiritually (that's the worst)? (**Sadly we train people to be this way beginning in youth group...**)
- As you read the rest of **John 6** you see that Jesus challenges these fans to a deeper and more intimate relationship with Him. The result is in **6:66**.
  - Most people just went home because He wasn't offering what they wanted.
  - It might be time for some people here to just go home. That might be harsh for you to hear. It's more harsh for me to say.
  - But if you're coming here for the atmosphere, because of what it does for you, or because it's safe, those are terrible reasons to go to church and claim the name Christian.
  - Why are you here? Because why? **[9]** Jesus' reason for being here, and He is here, is that He wants to have a deep relationship with You.
- The second question we need to answer is

## Are you all in? [10]

- Being a follower of Jesus requires complete commitment. A follower of Jesus will do whatever it takes to follow Jesus. They're absolutely loyal and completely committed.
- For the most part we don't have a problem with complete commitment because we are capable of doing it in areas that we love. Sports, scouts, theater, hunting, skiing, books, movies. In fact, one of our biggest problems is that we get completely committed in too many areas, except in the one that should be the most important; our relationship with Jesus.
- Instead of being completely committed we customize our Christianity.
  - **[11]** I'll follow Jesus, but I'm not going to forgive that person who hurt me. I'm not going to let go of that bitterness and resentment because I deserve that, I've earned that.
  - **[12]** I'll follow Jesus, but don't talk to me about money.
  - **[13]** I'll follow Jesus, but don't tell me what is OK and not OK in my sex life. I can't help it that I have these desires.
  - **[14]** I'll follow Jesus, so long as He doesn't get in the way of me getting what I want.
  - **[15]** I'll follow Jesus, but only in the areas that are comfortable, only in the areas that I agree with. I'm a Christian, but I'm not all in.
- If that's the case then you are not a Christian, not a follower, you're just a fan. **[16] Luke 9:23.**
  - It's not a buffet. You can't pick and choose.
  - There is no bargaining, no bartering, no deals. "I'll follow Jesus but..."
  - When you decide to become a follower, you are all in or not at all. **This is repellent to people who just want to be fans** and if that's you, don't be a hater. Hang on.
  - If you've answered why you're here it will be easy to figure out if you are all in or not. If you aren't here for the right reasons there is a good chance you won't be willing to go all in.
- So far in our DTR we've asked why are you here, and are you all in. Now it's time to ask

## Have you made it your own? [17]

- Many of us started going to church because of someone else.
  - Parent made us, no option.
  - A boy or girl, boyfriend or girlfriend.
  - Spouse, because they like it when you come to church with them. Or it appeases them and keeps them off your back about it.
- [18] For those who grew up in the church, or go because it appeases someone else, it's really easy to become just a fan.
  - Kinda like having to ride with someone to work or school who listens to music you are indifferent about. Not like country which we all hate, right?
  - I don't particularly like the Eagles, but my dad listened to it all the time. Eventually some tunes grow on you. "Peaceful easy feelin'" You know stuff about the band's history and members.
  - The same thing can happen to us in church and with Jesus. We know the songs, get familiar with the Bible stories, and we become a sort of fan of Jesus. **This can be the most dangerous place for you.**
  - **If your faith isn't your own, if you aren't pursuing a relationship with Jesus, you will begin to create a kind of faith that is empty.** You will also be numbing yourself to the real thing.
    - You will have something that requires no sacrifice and no personal change.
    - You will also have something that won't do anything for you when you need it, and you will judge it to be meaningless. That's because you never had it in the first place!
- [19] You have to make your faith your own.
  - Jesus doesn't want a relationship with you, your mom/dad, and Him.
  - Jesus doesn't want a relationship with you, your wife/husband, and Him.
  - He's looking for a relationship with you.
  - [20] **Luke 14:26**. It's not about your mom or dad. It's about you and Jesus.

## Wrap up

- Hopefully I've made you a little angry. Angry enough to challenge these things in your own life. I'm not the final judge so you don't have to defend yourself to me. The whole point is to get you to have an honest conversation with God.
- [21] Why are you here? Are you all in? Have you made it your own?
- Search yourself. Better yet, ask the Holy Spirit to search you and to help you answer these questions which are really a part of the big question; are you a fan, or are you a follower?