

not a fan.
COMPLETELY. COMMITTED. FOLLOWER.

is Jesus enough?

[2] **Luke 9:23**. This has been the point of this series. What is a fan? What is a follower?

[3] **John 6**. A scene we visited early on. Need to revisit.

- Walk through **6:1-14**.
- Walk through **6:15-21**. Ends like freaky ride in Willy Wonka.
- Walk through **6:22-26**, emph. on **26**.
- Jesus has a DTR talk with them. They didn't row across the lake for Him, but for the food. **The drive through was closed. Is that what Jesus is to you?**
- **6:35** Jesus asks, what about Me?

[4] 1) When Jesus is the only thing on the menu, you find out if He's the One you were really hungry for

When there are no other options, that's when you find out if Jesus is enough.

- When you've lost your job and you have to rely on something other than yourself, you find out if Jesus was enough.
- When the one you love ditches you and you find yourself lonely, bitter, and depressed, and you hear Jesus say, "Come to me and I will give you rest," you will find out if Jesus is enough.
- When someone you love dies, someone who had been sharing Jesus with you and you have tolerated it, and you find yourself thinking about this Jesus whom they love so much, you will find out if Jesus is enough.
- A child has cancer, parents divorce, addiction seems unbeatable, the future is overwhelming, relationships fall apart, suddenly having a little religion isn't enough. The fish and loaves, the spectacle, the Sunday service doesn't cut it.
- It's in those moments, when Jesus is the only thing left for us to grab on to, that we find out that He is exactly what we need, what we have needed the whole time, even before things turned to crap.
- **He becomes more than the baby in the manger, more than the glowing white guy in the blue or purple sash, He becomes the only hope.**

After about 30 vs of DTR talk, the masses make their decision. Read **6:66**.

- In the long run, this is what happens.
- Wide road vs. narrow road.
- We like Heaven, miracles, bread, free show, excitement, activity. But when Jesus moves all that out of the way and it's just Him, are we still interested?

After v. 66 is v. 67. (Read.) I wonder how He said that? Frustration? Despair? Resignation? Probably disappointment and sadness. God feels things, in case you didn't know.

Dating scene 1 - First date, movies, you pay for it all. Second date, nice place to eat, order anything you like, you pop for it. Each date is bigger a better, you are having more fun, more connection. Then, you plan a simple date, a walk in the park. Walk, talk, share how much you care about them. At the end of talking that say, "Is this it? Is this the date?" Turns out they were just hanging out for the freebies and fun. How would you feel? Perhaps Jesus felt like this.

Were the disciples into the size of Jesus' ministry, the prestige of being one of this Rabbi's disciples, and not into Jesus Himself? Hence the question. Their response? Read 6:68-69.

[5] 2) When you really know Jesus as Lord, You don't want Him to leave

Peter's answer sums it up. **To whom shall we go? That question represents an understanding that whatever else may be out there, however more comfortable and likable it may be, isn't the real deal.**

- Fans will bail on Jesus when His teaching gets uncomfy.
- Fans will bail when Jesus says things like **Luke 9:23**.
- Why? Probably not just because its challenging and uncomfy.

See, if they knew the whole story, their actions would probably reflect that knowledge.

- If they were guaranteed a ticket to Heaven, if they had full assurance that Jesus was the Son of God, if they could be completely convinced that following Jesus, regardless of the costs, would lead to an eternity of bliss and joy and worship in the presence of God Himself, they would stick with it. Who wouldn't?
- If all of us had that confidence, we'd have a much easier time dealing with some of the tougher bits of the Bible.
- If we believed the way the disciples did, we would have little problem standing strong for God's word and what it says about God's best for all of us.
- If we really knew and believed that Jesus was Lord we would probably approach sharing out faith differently.

But here's the thing

[6] **3) We don't know the way we wish, so we don't believe the way we should**

Repeat.

We can't know for sure that Jesus is Lord, at least not in the way we would like to know. There is evidence for and against. We want to have it all laid out, jump into a time machine, have God write it in the sky, a vision, and angel, an unmistakable sign that Jesus is the Son of God, just for us.

But that's now how it is for us, nor was it like that for the people who followed Jesus back then. They were there for the miracles, the signs, they ate the bread and fish, **but at some point they chose to believe that Jesus was, or was not the Messiah.**

If you and I choose to believe, which is faith (upcoming Habakuk and Hebrews studies), if you listen to the Holy Spirit which is God Himself speaking to you, we will be able to do the will of our Father in our community.

But it comes down to you deciding whether or not Jesus is enough for you, whether you will just be a fan, or a fully committed follower.

At least once in our lives, maybe it's already happened to you, maybe not, if it has it will happen again, you will have to make this decision...

[7] **We don't know the day, but we know His name.**

Our health will fail, the finances will vanish, someone will die. We don't know the day, but we know His name. Each time something happens you have an opportunity to call on this name. **"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**

Walk through John **6:35-40**.

[8] End with Romans Road.