

Week 1 - FAN OR FOLLOWER

Watch Lesson 1: Fan or Follower? (35:06 minutes)

Key Question

Are you a follower of Jesus? Most “believers” would say yes, but it comes down to the definition of what a follower is.

Here’s the real question: How does Jesus define what it means to follow Him? Whatever measurement He gives is the one we should use. Take a good look at what Jesus said about following Him. Fans often confuse their admiration for devotion. They mistake their knowledge of Jesus for intimacy with Jesus. Fans assume their good intentions make up for their apathetic faith. Is it possible that our admiration, knowledge and good intentions have automatically made us think we are followers?

There is no way to follow Jesus without Him interfering with your life. Following Jesus will cost you something. Following Jesus always costs something. Try to prayerfully identify some ways Jesus wants to interfere with your life, and what He is asking you to give up.

Going Deeper

We all know Jesus’ words to a religious leader named Nicodemus in John 3:16 – *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* But we can’t separate that from Jesus’ words in Luke 9:23 – *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”* It’s a sobering thing to realize that those who truly believe will then truly become Jesus’ disciples – they will deny themselves, take up their cross of sacrifice and follow Jesus.

We have separated the message of “believe” from the message to “follow”. Following is part of believing. To truly believe is to follow. What do you think about that? Is it possible to believe without truly following? Nicodemus had made a decision about Jesus, but that’s not the same as following Him. Jesus would not accept a relationship with Nicodemus where he simply believed; Jesus wanted Nicodemus to follow.

Nicodemus needed to humble himself and be born again – but into what? Into a whole new way of life. What do you think your definition of being “born again” has been?

We are called to live life in a brand new way, by walking in the Spirit – if not, then our pursuit to follow Jesus will be by our own effort – the “flesh”.

Personal Challenge

Have you made a decision for Jesus or have you committed to Jesus?

Biblical belief is more than just an intellectual acceptance or a heartfelt acknowledgment; it is a commitment to follow. Following by definition requires more than mental assent, it calls for movement. Are you moving now?

There is no forgiveness without repentance. There is no salvation without surrender. There is no life without death. There is no believing without committing.

What do you think about these statements? Are they biblical? Do they bother you? If so, why?