



NOT A FAN

“Is Jesus Enough”

John 6

December 11, 2011 A.M. Service

What is a Fan? An Enthusiastic Admirer

What is A Follower? One Who Is Completely Committed

When Jesus is the Only Thing on the Menu, You Find Out if He’s the One You Were Really Hungry For

When You Really Know Jesus as Lord, You Don’t Want to Leave Him.

We Don’t Know the Way We Wish, So We Don’t Believe the Way We Should.

We Don’t Know the Day, But We Know His Name

3 Final Questions to Ask:

- ✓ Wherever: What About There?
- ✓ Whenever: What About Now?
- ✓ Whatever: What About That?

How Do I Become A Follower & Not a Fan?

It’s Understanding Believing With Your Head and Heart the ABC’s of becoming a Christian

Then Following Him in a Relationship With Him for the Rest of our Lives!

- ✓ There is No Forgiveness Without Repentance
- ✓ There is No Salvation Without Surrender
- ✓ There is No Life Without Death
- ✓ There is No Believing Without Committing

Our Response:

1. Are You a Fan or are you a Follower? Have you given your heart and life to Jesus Christ ? You can become a follower by accepting this free gift of God **TODAY** if you will by faith believe and surrender your heart and life to Him! It’s as simple as ABC. **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God’s Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life & being His fully devoted follower!
2. Have you asked Christ into you heart, but never made it public? Have you been baptized – identified with Christ & His church through Baptism? If not, you can make that decision today & be obedient & follow through & become a part of the Bethsalem Family. Step out and tell everyone, I am signing up for Duty!
3. Do you need a church home? – a proper foundation – without one a Christian is a soldier with no army to fight with him or to help him fight. Don’t just attend – step over the line today and join this church family!
4. Encourage you to get into a Small Group either Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m. or Wednesday Nights @ 6:30 p.m. and pursue deeper and further this series of Not a Fan
5. What is on the menu of your life today? The question rings clearly this morning for all of us – Is Jesus Enough? The answer for many is yes but for others if we are honest is no – we just want a little of Jesus and that is ok? Jesus is never ok with just being a little part of our lives – He wants all of us and nothing less! Have you given Jesus everything in your life? Identify any area(s) today that is keeping you from completely following Him.
6. Are you willing TODAY to say yes to completely following Him?

Wherever: What About There?

Whenever: What about Now?

Whatever : What About That?

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When we started this series, we talked about a scene in John chapter 6. Great crowds were traveling with Jesus. By now, He was at the height of His popularity. Word had spread about miraculous healings & inspirational teach. So huge crowds had gathered to cheer Him on. We're told that there were about 5,000 men. But that was just the men. Likely the crowd was in excess of 15,000. After a full day, Jesus knows the people are getting hungry, and so He turns to his disciples and asks what all these people will do for food. 15,000 is a lot of mouths to feed.

One of the disciples, Philip, tells Jesus that even if they had eight months wages it wouldn't be enough money to buy bread for everyone to have a bite. From Philip's perspective, this isn't their problem and even if it was, there really isn't anything they can do. But another disciple, Andrew, has been scanning the crowd and he tells Jesus of a boy in the crowd that has five loaves of bread and two small fish. I can picture Andrew making |this announcement with a smile and a sense of expectation of what Jesus might do next. And Jesus doesn't disappoint. He takes the boy's sack lunch and he feeds the entire crowd. The Bible tells us that even after everyone had their fill there was still plenty of food left over.

After dinner the crowd decides to camp out for the night so they can be with Jesus the next day. They are committed fans. But the next morning the crowd wakes up and they're hungry again. Ready for a little breakfast. They look around for Jesus, a.k.a. their meal ticket, but he's nowhere to be found. Eventually they figure out that Jesus and his disciples had crossed over to the other side of the lake. Instead of going home they make the trip to the other side of the lake to be with Jesus. The crowd seems to have no higher priority than being with Jesus. Maybe these are more than just fans after all.

By the time they catch up to Jesus they're starving. They've missed the chance to order breakfast and they are ready to find out what's on the lunch menu. But Jesus has decided to shut down the all you can eat buffet. He's not handing out any more free samples. In verses 26-27 Jesus says to

the crowd: “I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.” And Jesus decides to have the DTR talk with this crowd. He knows that these people are not going to all the trouble and sacrifice because they are following him, but because they are following the food. There are fans of Jesus but how would they respond when the drive through window closed? In verse 35 Jesus offers himself, but the question is, would that be enough? Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.”

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. There are plenty of stories I could tell you – a daughter is diagnosed with cancer, parents get divorced, the addiction seems unbeatable, a child or parent dies, a future seems overwhelming, a relationship falls apart...and something happens. Suddenly having a little bit of religion isn’t enough. Suddenly the spectacle, the fish and loaves, the Sunday service doesn’t cut it. And in those moments, those times that Jesus is the only thing left on the menu, they find out that He’s exactly what they need. He becomes more than a guy wearing a blue sash – he becomes the only hope. **ILLUS: Song: Jason Wallis**

**I need You more than food to eat I need You more than water to drink
I need You more than the night to sleep
I need You more than the air I breathe
Become my food Become my drink My night my air My everything
Consume me Consume me, Lord**

So here in John 6, the crowd has to decide if Jesus is enough. Are they hanging around for the perks, or is it really about the relationship? Do you remember what happened? The fans turn and go home. And here’s what we read at the end of the chapter: **John 6:66, From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.** And, in the long run, that’s what will happen. Scripture tells us that wide is the road that leads to destruction. In the end, whether we like it or not, most people just won’t accept Christ’s invitation. They like the idea of heaven. They like the

miracles. They like the bread. They like the free show. They like the chance to be around a lot of people. They like the excitement. But when Jesus wipes all that off the table and offers Himself, they aren't interested. After we read in John 6 that many of his followers had left, Jesus turns to his 12 disciples & asked in Vs 67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" I don't know how he said that. I don't know if he was frustrated or angry. My guess is he spoke with a tone of disappointment and sadness as it became clear why so many were following Him. And even though He was God, that must have broken His heart.

ILLUS: How would it feel if you started to date someone, and you took them to the movies for the first date? You paid for the popcorn, the drinks, all the snacks. You paid for the tickets. And after the date, you ask them out again. They say yes. So you take them somewhere nicer this time. Maybe a nice restaurant. You let them order anything they want off the menu, and when the bill finally comes, you pick it up and pay. And with each date, you have more and more fun with this person, and you feel a real connection. And just when you think things are going to get really serious, you ask them out on a special date. They agree, and you pick them up. You surprise them by taking them to the park. You go on a walk, and you talk. You stop to sit at a bench, and you pour out your heart to this person, telling them how much you care about them, how much you want to help make them happy and fulfill them. And just as you finish pouring out all of your affection for them, they look at you and ask, "Is this the date? When are we going to go do something?" And pretty soon, you realize they were just hanging around for the things you'd get them. For the movie tickets. For the nights of free meals and entertainment. Wouldn't that break your heart?

I can imagine that might be how Jesus felt. So He asks his disciples, the men He's grown closest to, whether or not they'll leave. Would His most devoted disciples turn out to be fans who weren't willing to stick around when the teaching got tough? Was this group more focused on the crowds Jesus attracted than on His message of life? Would they abandon Jesus? In John 6:68-69, we read their response. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

When You Really Know Jesus as Lord, You Don't Want to Leave Him.

Peter's answer sums it up. "To whom shall we go?" That one question seems to ask thousands of questions. Who could lead us like you could? Who could teach us with wisdom like yours? Who could possibly bring us closer to God? Why would we ever want to leave the Messiah? Who else is worth following compared to you? How could we ever find someone else like you? See, fans will bail on Jesus when His teaching gets difficult. When He asks them to sacrifice, when He asks them to take up their cross, when He asks them to die to themselves, fans take off. And I don't think they do that just because they prefer comfort.

We Don't Know the Way We Wish, So We Don't Believe the Way We Should.

The first half of that is a tough fact to face: we really can't know for sure that Jesus is Lord. There's evidence both for and against our beliefs, and the bottom line is that we can't know the way we wish. Because we wish we could have it all laid out. We wish God would write it in the sky. We wish He'd give us a vision. We wish He'd speak directly to us. We wish He'd send an angel or give us some kind of unmistakable sign that He is alive and in charge and Jesus is His son.

But life's not like that, is it? And it wasn't like that for the disciples, either. Sure they were there for the miracles. But at that point, they chose to know and believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Choosing to know and believe is a choice we have to make, just like the disciples made. Because if we would believe with the same fire and passion that the disciples had, I think we could do some amazing things in our community. But in the end, it comes down to whether Jesus is enough for you. And it comes down to whether or not you'll choose to move from being a fan to being a follower.

We Don't Know the Day, But We Know His Name

It's true, we don't know the day Christ will return. We don't know when health might fail or finances might plummet or when we'll die. And we never will. But even though we don't know the day, we know His name. I know none of us want to be declared fans on judgment day. And I know we aren't offered the guarantee that we'd really like, but Jesus does offer a different kind of guarantee. Jesus guarantees that if you put your trust in

Him, He will never fail you. He guarantees that if you stake your life on His message of truth, He will stake His life on your eternity in Heaven. Jesus guarantees that if you put your trust and hope in Him, He'll guide you to an eternity with God the Father. We don't know the day, but we know His name. And as Scripture tells us, by his name alone are men saved. But you have to decide. Are you a fan or are you a follower of Jesus? Because all of those guarantees are for the followers who refuse to leave His side, the followers who ask, "To whom shall we go. You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One sent from God."

3 Final Questions to Ask:

Wherever: What About There?

Luke 9:57 "They were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will Follow wherever you go." **Jesus' Response: Vs 58**

It's easy to speak about following Jesus without making any specific commitments. Following Jesus means we will make some significant life changes. Be honest this morning – where is the one place you find it most difficult to follow Jesus? If you said to Jesus, "Wherever", where do you think the one place he would point to and say, what about there?

What about at Home? – Use from Book

What About at Work? – Use From Book

ILLUS: Ladies working together

What About at the game, in the neighborhood, back home with old friends, hanging out with the guys at the hunting camp?

What About to the Ends of the Earth? – Adoniram & Anne Judson – Book
Are we really willing to say wherever?

The guy in Luke 9 was fine with following until Jesus said "There." One of the reasons we don't follow Jesus wherever is that when he says there, we take that more as a suggestion than a command – meant for someone other than me.

Quote: We see Jesus like our personal consultant rather than the Lord of our lives. "Now a consultant is someone whose wisdom we highly value and listen to, but at the end of the day, we make the final decision. That's why they're called consultants. Here's the problem: God doesn't do consulting. Never has. Never will. He does God. When we treat him as a

consultant, He simply stops showing up for the meetings.”

Jesus wants followers who will say yes to Him before they even know the request. May answer is yes, now where do you want me to go. Jesus may point to the ends of the earth or right across the street!

Another challenge is of saying wherever is fear – and when we are afraid then we tend to avoid – we just simply stay away. Remember old Jonah? Another reason is that we might be uncomfortable – out of my comfort zone. **ILLUS: Saying yes to following Jesus meant. – BOOK**

Many times our families are the worst ones pushing us to lead safe and comfortable lives. They may want you to follow Jesus, but not to a place that might require risk and sacrifice.

ILLUS: What Wedding Vows Really Mean – Page 183-84
Quote from Kyle – Page 185

Whenever: What About Now?

Maybe you work through the whenever – but just not right now. We make excuses as to why we just cannot do that right now. Luke 9 – another guy, let me go do this first, then I will come and follow.

Fans don't feel convicted over their half-hearted relationship with Jesus, because they have ever intention of one day going all in and being completely committed – just not now. I didn't tell Jesus no, I just said a little later. We just simply say tomorrow. What does Jesus say to that – It is on the invitation the RSVP reads: Today is the day! The word tomorrow is not in the Holy Spirit's vocabulary!

How long have you been saying tomorrow? Saying tomorrow may cost you everything, your family, job, friends, reputation, the land of tomorrow is never what Satan promises is that it will be!

ILLUS: Blinking light on dashboard – cover it up – no more – until the car breaks and quits running!

God puts blinking lights in our paths to get our attention – I pray that I will be that for myself and for you too!

By the way, later ends up becoming never. The worst thing that can happen is that tomorrow will never come! If you keep hitting the snooze alarm, eventually you will ignore it. Don't do that!

Hebrews 3:15 “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.”

Let's quit saying tomorrow and follow Him today!

Whatever: What About That?

What is the whatever for you. Again, one more guy in Luke 9 – and his excuse is I have to go and say good-bye – and the problem wasn't the request, but it simply revealed where his heart truly was. It's not that following Jesus wasn't important, it's just that it wasn't his top priority. It's like we have talked about these last 6 weeks, people want to follow Jesus, but not with everything they have. Jesus calls us to go ALL-IN!

ILLUS: Knights of Templar.

What would you hold up? Your job, your remote control, your hobby, your sports team, your laptop, your family, your time, etc.

Many fans say to Jesus, "I will follow. Anything and everything I have, I give to you" And Jesus does with us what we do with our children, but what about that hiding behind your back.

What is the that for you? For Nicodemus it was his religious reputation. For the rich young ruler it was stuff, this man was his family.

ILLUS: Elisha – heard it in the video a few weeks ago, but want to draw our attention to it once more.

We aren't called to make Jesus a top priority in our lives, but instead He is the ONLY Priority in our lives! He desperately wants us but He will not share us! He will settle for nothing less than our undivided attention and complete commitment. He wants us to invest in Him more than we invest in our stock portfolio. He wants us to surrender to Him more of our time and talent than the office gets out of us. He want us to expend more joy and energy in worshiping Him than we do in watching the big game.

The reason Jesus is so adamant about followers surrendering everything is because the reality is this: **the one thing we are most reluctant to give up is the one thing that has the most potential to become a substitute for Him!** It is idolatry. When we finally surrender that one thing, we discover the satisfaction that comes from following Jesus that was always missing when we were holding something back.

ILLUS: Funerals – ask people to list things about the person – they put so many things, funny, silly, things I ask, even great things like they loved their family deeply and provided and cared for them (what a great thing, but that is not the most important thing!!) – but the one I am looking for – they were a follower of JESUS!! How did they love Jesus, how did they love and serve others, how did they love his church and give their lives

away serving Jesus through it!

How will you be remembered? Fan or Follower?

CLOSING ILLUS: Fan or Follower – A What If Story

2 Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”

Is He looking for you and me? Oh how I pray so!