**Life Team Notes – Week of 2-23-20 – Different Direction**

* What is something you follow?

Sports team, movies franchise, artist, band, politics, etc.

* Why do you follow them? What do you like about them?
* Sunday, we talked about how following Jesus will sometimes be difficult and possibly even painful - for those who were there - thinking back to Sunday was there anything that challenged, encouraged, or caught your attention?

**What is a Follower of Jesus?**

* Who does a follow of Jesus follow? Jesus
* How would you describe what it means to follow Jesus?

Follow me – 7X in Matthew

Follow me – 4X in Mark

Follow Me – 4X in Luke

Follow Me – 7X in John

**Here are some of those verses** (Fire round- divide among group and read out loud.)

**Matthew 4:19, 8:22, 10:38, 16:24, Mark 1:17, Mark 2:14, 8:34,**

**Luke 9:23, John 8:12, 10:27, 12:26**

* What stands out to you as you read these verses?
* If there an urgency to the request? How?
* What do you think was the response to those Jesus spoke to?

**4 types of “followers” of Jesus:**

We see examples of each type of follower in the gospels

**1. The fad follower**

Jesus is what they are currently in to. But like other interests in time it will fad, and they’ll move on to the next thing they’re in to.

They say -

**“Jesus I will follow, until the next thing catches my attention”**

**John 6:66**

* Jesus has thousands of people following him, but little by little they left and went on to the next thing.

**Luke 9:61-62**

* Read **Luke 9:62** – how does that verse make you feel? What are your thoughts?

**2. The fan follower**

They really like Jesus, really like the music, and like serving others, but it does not affect their daily life and their daily decisions.

They say -

**“Jesus I will follow as long as it does not interrupt my life”**

* We see this through the life of Jesus and the New Testament – where were the thousands and thousands that Jesus fed and healed go?

**Luke 6:46, 2 Corinthians 13:5**

* What stands out to you about those two verses?

**3. The fake follower**

They are there and do all the right things – but they don’t truly buy into the whole Jesus thing.

They say -

**“Jesus I will follow from the outside”**

We see this through the life of Jesus and the New Testament

**Matthew 7:21-23, Isaiah 29:13, Romans 16:17-18**

**Jesus talking to his disciples about one of them said -** **John 6:64**

* Who do you think he was talking about in that verse?

Judas, a fake follower – he was following for selfish reasons.

**3. The faithful follower**

Jesus is first and center above all other things and the word of God is the lens they see the world is through. I am all in!

They say -

**“Jesus I will follow wherever you lead me”**

* Recent survey - more Americans see themselves as fans of Jesus rather than followers – 75 percent. (Not A Fan – BY Kyle Idleman) Why do you think that is?
* What's the difference between being a fake, a fan, following a fade and being a committed follower of Jesus?
* What do you think is the mark of a follower of Jesus?

(obedience to Jesus – John 14:15)

**John 12:25-26, Mark 8:34-38, Matthew 6:33**

**A follower – follows**

They drop everything – including their own dreams and goals – and seek to know and follow the will of Jesus.

**Read through Mark 8:34-38 one more time slowly as the leader and discuss what each part means.**

* Do you believe it's easy to change the fans of Jesus into committed followers?
* Do you think fan, fakes, and fad followers miss out on the adventure of truly following Jesus? How?

**Ask but do not have them answer outload (self-reflection question)**

* Are you a fan, a fake, or a follower of Jesus?

**TAKE HOME:**

Read through Mark 8:34-38 – write out the verse using your own words.

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**2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ follower**

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