

Apprenticing Jesus || A Series Through the Gospel of Luke

Followers and Fans

Sermon Synopsis: Jesus turns fans into followers by teaching them how to die
Themes: gospel, suffering, following Jesus

I'm a fan of basketball, but I don't play. No matter how much I watch, I will never be able to perform like the person who follows and practices the game

Jesus has a lot of fans

Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, **"Who do the crowds say that I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen."** (Luke 9:18-19, ESV)

Most people think well of Jesus—and yet are unchanged (they are fans) But like me, watching don't change you

Maybe you're a fan—ok! We all got to start somewhere. Worst = stay where you start

"But who do you say that I am?" **And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."** (Luke 9:20, ESV) He started as a fan

Jesus wants to make followers out of fans

But fans don't always stick w/Jesus—He doesn't do things we want superstars to do!

And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, **"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed,** (Luke 9:21-22, ESV)

Suffering mentioned 6xⁱ – **Jesus appears to "lose"** & fans don't like that!

Fandom is sometimes an extension of our desire to win at life. That's why losing team feels _____

Eric Simons. The Secret Lives of Sports Fans

In all kinds of unconscious ways, a fan mirrors the feelings, actions and even hormones of the players. Self-esteem rides on the outcome of the game and the image of the franchise."ⁱⁱ **Manny-hero**

How many unexpected circumstances, unanswered prayers, turn of events repd here?

This is what would chase away His "fans" (Jn 6:66)

Even his brothers. Yet, they would change their minds. Why?

What we consider to be losses are sometimes God's greatest victories

and on the third day be raised." (Luke 9:22, ESV)

His death turns into his resurrection / not just a sign about Him, but for us!

Jesus sometimes healed people's symptoms—but ultimately He would heal death itself

He had to do this as an inside job—**by entering our suffering and death with us**

What if the pathway you dismissed is the very way God is going to move in your life?

True life comes through struggle – Christianity is a holy struggle (for what matters)

True life comes when we move from fans to followers

And he said to all, **"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me... But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."** (Luke 9:23-27, ESV) Expand: **1. identify w/his death 2. experience his life**

There is tremendous blessing available in the Kingdom

But there is no power in fan-based Christianity

True life comes from **dying to self and taking in exchange the life** and way of Jesus

Corporate Communion **AP!**

1. Believe, repent, follow
2. Identify with Him and remember Him...

Luke 22:19-20 (ESV)

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

- a) We are proclaiming to the world and ourselves that God brings life out of death
- b) We are strengthening our faith in Him
- c) We are renewing our call to follow Him

We normally do communion in an intimate private way

But perhaps you need the gospel of Jesus to be spoken over you today

Today, we will have others proclaim it over us, as we are given the bread/cup

I invite you to feast as the early church did, not on your own sufficiency, but on God who raises the dead.

ⁱ Bock. 166

ⁱⁱ "In all kinds of unconscious ways, a fan mirrors the feelings, actions and even hormones of the players. Self-esteem rides on the outcome of the game and the image of the franchise." a quote from Eric Simons's book *The Secret Lives of Sports Fans*. Washington Post. The psychology of why sports fans see their teams as extensions of themselves. January 30, 2015
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-psychology-of-why-sports-fans-see-their-teams-as-extensions-of-themselves/2015/01/30/521e0464-a816-11e4-a06b-9df2002b86a0_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.41339555a827