



fan or follower?

What do true followers know?

1. True followers know they are to imitate Christ's example of _____ . Luke 9:23

a. Determine each day to _____.

2. True followers know that whatever they lose for Christ they _____ . Luke 9:24-25

a. Determine each week to _____.

3. True followers know that to speak up for Christ

_____ . Luke 9:26-27

a. Determine each month to _____.

Take Home Truth

Christ's followers know that _____

follows _____ . Luke 9:20

Today's Core Practice:

Giving Away My Life: I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes. (from Romans 12:1 & Matthew 28:19-20)



Deeper Connection

There are a lot of perspectives about Jesus. Who is Jesus and what does he expect? Luke has offered this question already several times (4:14-30; 7:16; 8:25; 9:7-9). Along with inquiring about what people say about his identity, Jesus also challenges his disciples concerning the true cost of discipleship and what this would entail.

Today's Core Practice discussed: Giving Away My Life.

Read Luke 9:18-27 [par. Matthew 16:13-16, 21-28; Mark 8:27-29, 31-9:1]

1. What are some of the popular perceptions of Jesus then and now (vv. 18-19)? How do people come to this conclusion? Who do *you* say Jesus is?
2. Why does Jesus ask his disciples about their own perspective? How do they respond (v. 20)? Rather than congratulate them, what does he say in response and why (v. 21)?
3. According to Jesus, who will be responsible for his suffering and death (v. 22)? Why does he mention this to his disciples (cf. Matt. 17:22-23; 20:17-19; 26:2; Mk. 10:45)?
4. What does it really mean for a Christian to “deny himself and take up his cross daily” (v. 23)? What does the cross represent and why did Jesus emphasize it as the hallmark of being his disciple?
5. What are the costs and rewards of following Jesus (vv. 23-27)? Why is it that the cost of discipleship is rarely preached in our day and age?
6. How are you learning and experiencing the cost of discipleship? What does Jesus expect from you? What does it mean for you to be a disciple of Jesus?

PRAYER TO THE POINT: Praise God for the sacrifice of Jesus and his invitation for us to follow Christ. Pray for a deeper understanding and commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus. Ask God to be glorified in your life as you surrender all to him.



It is true that crowds of people will flock to witness a phenomenon. As an example, tomorrow millions of people will gather in a number of places across the U.S. to experience the total eclipse of the sun. Maps have been examined, destinations determined and special sunglasses purchased so that this astronomical phenomenon may be observed.

In the 1st century, throngs of people gathered to witness a supernatural phenomenon that was taking place in the region of Galilee. Stories of exorcisms, miraculous healings, even resurrections, drew large crowds and, at the center of all of this attention, was a man named Jesus.

Unlike other people who were able to draw large crowds, Jesus was not motivated by human popularity. In fact, he intentionally made the requirements of being his disciple stringent, which eliminated a lot of “fans.” Why did he make the standard for discipleship so high? Because he was interested in finding “devoted followers.”

How about you, are you attracted to the “phenomenon” of Jesus, or the “person” of Jesus?

