

Fan or Follower

(Borrowed idea for title from Kyle Idleman)

Fans regularly pay a small price to gather and cheer from a distance for someone they only know facts about.

Followers give everything to experience the personal presence of someone they really know.

Today's world constantly redefines the meaning of words: ratchet/sick/friend/ follower or following

“**following**” someone on social media interest in knowing about someone from a distance.

How does Jesus define **FOLLOWING**

Matthew 16:24-27 (NKJV)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples,
“If anyone desires to come after Me,
let him deny himself, and
take up his cross, and
follow Me.

Following Jesus requires surrender. (24)

Surrender of self.

Surrender of selfish comforts.

Peter did not understand following Jesus (16:21-23)

4:19-22(Peter and Andrew, James and John) and

9:9 (Matthew)

“Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.” (Matthew 4:19-22, NKJV)

“As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.” (Matthew 9:9, NKJV)

²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Because: (causal, adverbial) describing the reason for following

Denying a selfish life means gaining a godly life. (25)

God's guidance

God's power

God's presence

God's blessings (relation to reward in vs. 27)

Surrender your life for the life God has planned for you.

²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?
Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Because:

Your soul is worth more than stuff. (26)

Surrender temporary things for eternal life.

Live with an eternal perspective.

²⁷ For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Because:

Jesus will return and reward. (27)

Tension of faith and works Eph 2:8-10, James 2:17-20

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

James 2:17-20 (NKJV)

¹⁷Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Surrender (life and works)while there is time.

Matthew 10:38 “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

Selfish Fan or Selfless Follower?

Are you willing to surrender everything to follow Jesus?

Two responses this morning. To follow or not.

This message is not only for “those unbelievers who need it” The message of “Follow Me” is for each one of us.

For you who have never surrendered your life to follow Jesus, will you come and simply say, “Beginning today I want to follow Jesus”

For you who have committed to surrender your life to follow Jesus, BUT you are struggling with surrendering something to Him, Will you come this morning and commit that action/that attitude/that relationship/that stuff to Him today?