A Fan Or A Follower Kz Lesson Sun Am 8 30 20

Memory Verse: Mark 8:34 (NKJV)

**34**When He had called the people to *Himself,* with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Target Thought: Jesus and His Kingdom is our life.

Have you ever been a member of a fan club? A fan club is a group of enthusiastic supporters of a well-known person, music group, or a sports team. If you are a fan of a particular sports team, you might wear a t-shirt with the team name and a picture of their mascot on it. If you are a fan of a singer or a musical group, you might have their posters decorating the walls in your room.

One thing I have noticed about fan clubs is that the number of members in the club usually depends on how popular or successful the person or team is. If a sports team wins a lot of games, they will probably have a lot of fans. But if they start to lose, the fans usually fall away. (A few years ago the fans of one sports team went to the games with a brown paper bag over their head to hide their identity!) If a singer or music group has a lot of big hits, they will have a lot of fans, but if the hits stop coming, the fans will go away. Most people are only fans as long as things go well, as long as things go their way.

When Jesus was on earth, he had a lot of fans. As he traveled around performing miracles like feeding more than 5,000 people with five fish and two loaves of bread or healing a blind, there were huge crowds of fans everywhere he went. These people were only fans not necessarily followers, you see things were going their way. Let us ask our self where were the "fans" when Jesus was being beaten and crucified?

The difference between a fan and a follower is a fan is a fan only as long as things go their way and they get what they want. A true follower of Jesus is willing to lay down their life for Jesus the way He laid down His life us. A true follower of Jesus will keep the faith and be willing to serve Jesus even in difficult times, even when things are not going their way. Jesus and His kingdom will always be the first priority to them, the reason and way they live their life.

But do you know what? Jesus isn't interested in having fans, He wants followers. One day he said to a crowd of people, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

What did Jesus mean when He said if you try to hang onto your life you will lose it? There are only two kingdoms for us to choose from, God's Kingdom or satan's. If we try to live only for ourself we are really living in satan's kingdom, a kingdom of selfishness, pride, deception ..... every evil thing. When we live in God's Kingdom He has every perfect and good thing for us, and life more abundantly!

To be a follower of Jesus means much more than being a member of his fan club. It means more than wearing an "I Love Jesus" t-shirt, a WWJD\* bracelet, or a necklace with a cross on it.

It means to follow the teachings of Jesus every day. It means that Jesus is our way of life, in the good times and the bad. It means that we serve, believe, and obey Jesus in every area of our life. It means that Jesus and His Kingdom are our first priority, that we love Jesus with all of our heart, our mind and all of our strength. In other words, A fan is only fan when things go their way, a follower dedicates their entire life to Jesus. That is what separates a fan from a follower.

We can tell if people are a fan of Jesus or a follower. Some people if Jesus is popular at the moment they will say they are a Christian, but if it comes time for them to live for Jesus, sacrificing for Jesus or giving up something they want to do, they choose what they want, they choose for things to be their way. these people are "fans". A true follower of Jesus will believe, sacrifice, obey and serve Jesus no matter if it is easy or if it takes the determination that Jesus had for us when He went to the Cross. If we are true followers of Jesus our life belongs to Him and not to us.

Father, help us to be more than fans — help us to be true believers and followers of Jesus. In Jesus' name we ask, amen.

1. Explain the difference between a fan or a follower.

2. Tell me what God's Kingdom has for us, satan's kingdom?

3. What do true followers of Jesus do?