



**Free Chapel**  
**Alberton AGF**



**not a fan.**  
COMPLETELY. COMMITTED. FOLLOWER.

# **Sermon 1**

# **Fan or Follower?**

*Adapted from the Not A Fan Series  
Pastor Kyle Idleman  
South East Christian Church  
Louisville, USA*



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Luke 9:23

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all:

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and **follow me.**”

We agreed that we have decision  
MOMENTS in our lives and that these are  
not unique to the business world.

A much more common experience for  
decision making is in the realm of  
RELATIONSHIPS.



**DTR?**

**Define The Relationship**



During this Sermon series we are going to examine our relationship with Jesus.

We have to **DEFINE THE RELATIONSHIP!**

Quite simply we have to find out where we stand with Jesus

So begins an exciting time where we define our personal relationship with our Saviour.

And the central verse of scripture we will use is LUKE 9:23

***23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. (NASB)***

## In Sermon 1 we asked are you a FAN OR FOLLOWER?

You may ask why this question, after all I come to church and do all the right things.

Lets us define a FAN!

“Fanatical enthusiast or supporter” *Wikipedia*



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But here's the thing:

Jesus was not concerned about FANS

**He did not say:**

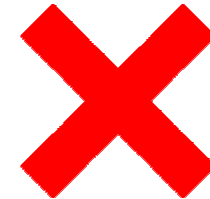
“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and **BE MY FAN**”.

**He did say:**

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and **FOLLOW ME**”.



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So if we are honest with ourselves, if we really search our hearts and begin to Define our Relationship with Jesus, there are **THREE QUESTIONS** for us to answer.

## Application

Now you have to Define the Relationship.  
Jesus has made clear what He expects!

Answer the 3 questions:

- 1. Why are you here?**
- 2. Are you all in?**
- 3. Have you made it your own?**

If I can encourage you – BE HONEST.

Living a lie is not going to empower you instead it will cause undue stress.

Jesus said:

“I am the way the truth and the life”

“No man comes to the Father but by me”





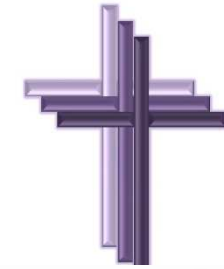
# Sermon 2

# ANYONE

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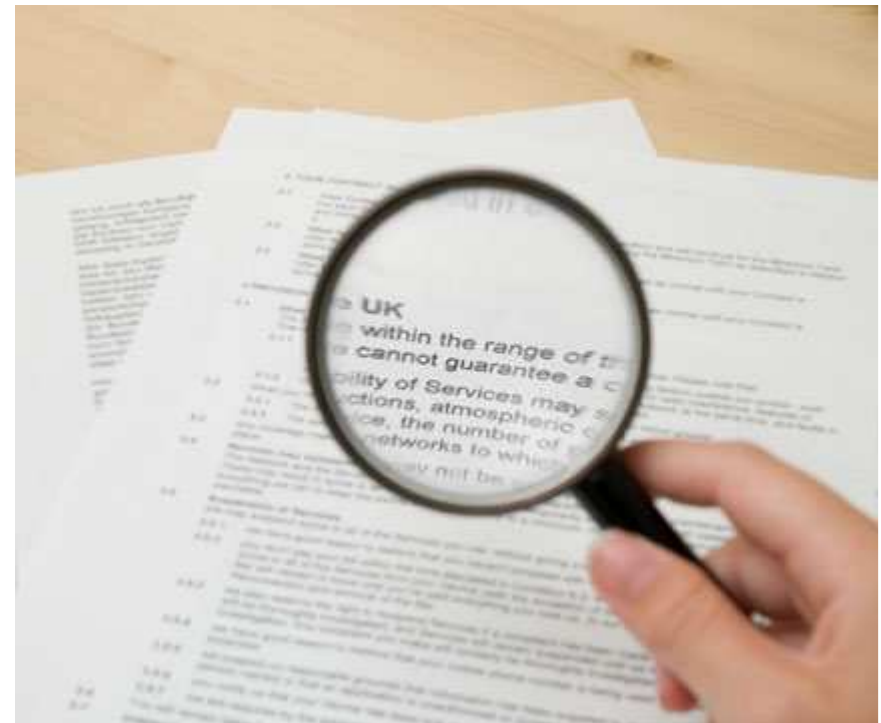


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## Terms and Conditions Apply!

What does this mean?  
How does it affect me?  
Do I qualify?

And if I contravene the T&C's  
What happens?





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## Luke 9:23 (New American Standard Bible)

<sup>23</sup> And He was saying to *them* all,  
“If **ANYONE** wishes to come after Me,  
he must deny himself, and take up his cross  
daily and follow Me”.

The question is;

Was Jesus applying **terms and conditions**?

Was He making sure that we understood His charter?



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After all He was seen as a Rabbi – A teacher of the Law and their would be those who wanted to be TALMID.

## Talmid

**Talmid ḥakham** (Heb., ‘a disciple of the wise’).

A Jewish rabbinical scholar

**Qualifications** (Conditions) to become a Talmid were stringent:

They had to have an excellent knowledge of the scriptures.

The Rabbi would normally quiz a prospective Talmid.

- Recite the entire book of Numbers
- They would ask how many times the Name of the Lord is used in the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Leviticus

The Rabbi had His reputation to protect  
The more brilliant his Talmid the more he was a sought after teacher.





The word was out about this new Rabbi Jesus who is picking followers randomly.

And when the people saw his disciples they must have thought:

“These people are nobodies”.

“Those two used to be fishermen, a few of them are just political hotheads, and that guy is a tax collector”.

Slowly but surely the people who may have wanted to be a Talmid but did not qualify were realizing that when Jesus said ANYONE could follow Him, He meant it.

And it is true – when Jesus said ANYONE, He means everyone.

**ANYONE means EVERYONE**



Let us unpack this:

- Sometimes our preference is that “my church” is not for just anyone.
- We prefer things to stay the same.
- And same soon becomes standard
- And standard becomes a qualification
- And qualification has an unwritten code.
  - what is acceptable or not acceptable -

And this causes the anyone who comes to the church to pre-qualify themselves – DO I FIT IN?

**When Jesus said ANYONE – It eliminated qualifications**

## No QUALIFICATIONS means No EXCUSES



By inviting ANYONE, Jesus breaks down all the barriers to following Him.

- You don't have to qualify!
- There is no excuse!

### **What excuse have you been using?**

- Too busy.
- I am not as clever as the Pastor
- The church is full of hypocrites.
- Too lazy to get up on a Sunday and go to church.
- Times are tough – I don't have a job.
- I am not proud of my past



**Nick Vujicic**





Jesus got rid of all these EXCUSES when HE invited ANYONE

He said:

ANYONE is welcome to have a relationship with me.

Sexual past – ANYONE

Ex-con – ANYONE

Recently divorced – ANYONE

Legalist – ANYONE

Alcoholic – ANYONE

Pot head – ANYONE

Addict – ANYONE.

Hypocrite - ANYONE



But ANYONE coming to follow Him must be ready for what comes next!

Especially those of us that are already in church.

What happens when invitation goes out to anyone?

All of a sudden the qualifications and unwritten code is challenged.

Our comfort zones will be challenged

**That is if you are a Fan**



**FOLLOWERS** on the other hand will;

- be willing to break down walls
- trash the qualifications and unwritten codes
- and welcome ANYONE into God's family

**Because this is about Jesus not us!**

Now we know that when the ANYONE comes into the church we **MUST NOT** tolerate sin.

We need to make sure they understand what God's Word allows and what it doesn't

But you see that when Jesus says ANYONE, people that respond might have a past we don't approve of or we even might be embarrassed to hear of their current life.



Fans prefer not to handle new people like this.  
Fans prefer not to know.  
Fans prefer things to be shallow and comfortable.

But **FOLLOWERS** are willing to listen.  
Willing to hear stories of brokenness and sin.  
And still welcome them with open arms.

**But what is crucial is that brand new Christians and long time believers move into a COMPLETELY COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS**



## It is ANYONE, but it is EVERYTHING



When Jesus welcomes ANYONE He also makes it clear that when you choose to FOLLOW Him you are giving up everything else.

### The Message – Luke 9:23

<sup>23</sup>Then he told them what they could expect for themselves:  
“ANYONE who intends to come with me **has to let me lead.**  
**You're not in the driver's seat—I am.**”

When a TALMID was accepted by a Rabbi they left their homes, their lives, their jobs – whatever was holding them back.

They would literally follow the Rabbi wherever he went.



**LIFE**



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What does it mean then to FOLLOW Rabbi Jesus?

What is required?

The **greatest teacher** that ever lived is inviting you to follow Him.

Because if you FOLLOW Him He will welcome you into the Father's presence one day.

It is only by accepting His invite to FOLLOW Him that people will enter into the presence of the Father.

- You don't need qualifications
- No excuse is even considered.
- Everything is required.

**Will you be a FAN or a FOLLOWER?**

Believer and Non-believer LISTEN to His call  
To FOLLOW Him



- **You need to be confronted by Jesus**
- **You need to have Him search you soul**
- **You need to hear the call**
- **You need to learn exactly what it means for you to follow**
- **You need to realize that His asking for it all**

**Today you need to say  
I am Not a Fan – I am a completely committed FOLLOWER**

**AMEN**





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