



Life Is Complicated. We Can Help. Anyone & Everyone

#nplifeiscomplicated

Week 19

January 10, 2021

Bottom Line: If who Jesus claims to be is false, He is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing He cannot be is moderately important.

Icebreaker: How would you complete this sentence? "I am a fan of _____." Explain why and give proof.

Key Verse: *For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.* Luke 9:24

Jesus issued an open invitation to anyone and everyone to follow Him. Anyone IS everyone. But Jesus made the point with unmistakable clarity that not everyone would follow Him because of the cost. Many who appeared to follow Him were simply fans. It's the same today. We all have something in us that does not want to follow and trust. The many examples of people recorded in the gospels who were invited but didn't follow are mirrored in our lives today. Jesus gave three specific examples: Many didn't follow because of **the desire for certainty**. We make gods of both comfort and certainty. But you cannot follow Jesus to advance yourself. Jesus is the end, in and of Himself. When you follow Jesus, He is all you have. You do it step by step. My success in life is not determined by my comfort or my certainty. Jesus has simply called us to follow Him completely and love as He loved. Many people didn't follow Him because the call is always urgent, not just whenever you feel like it. They wanted to put it off, often because of **their insecurities**. Our insecurities end up defining our lives. We want to control and manipulate things the way we want them. Insecurity will erode our credibility with God, ourselves, and people. The longer you put off making the real commitment, the less likely you are to ever really make it. Our insecurities then lead us to **divided hearts and mixed priorities**. Jesus said that when we follow after Him, there is no higher priority in our lives. There is no more significant or urgent obligation and responsibility than to advance the name of Jesus. We drop our own priorities and pick up His—NOW. We find many ways to justify half-hearted following or "I'll do it later" following, which is not following at all. Jesus will not accept it. The cost of following is great, but the cost of just being a fan is far greater, not just for us but for the lost and the poor among us whom Jesus calls us to love and share with them the supreme satisfaction that is found in following Christ. Are you a fan or a follower? Is Jesus one of many or is He your one and only? Fans want Jesus to be one of many. Jesus is clear that this isn't an option. Jesus says the most important command is to love the Lord with ALL your heart, ALL your soul, ALL your mind, and ALL your strength. That's the kind of relationship He wants to have with you. Jesus explains that following Him is not something you do part time or halfway. He says it's all or nothing.

THINK IT OVER >>>

For you, what was the most significant part of today's message?

Anyone means everyone. What does that mean to you? How does it encourage you?

Which of the three examples Jesus gave for why people are fans without really being followers strikes closest to home for you? Why and how?

Give some examples of how Jesus didn't try to minimize the cost of following Him.

Could part of the purpose of COVID-19 be to find out if Jesus is a simply and incredibly satisfying place to be? Are we being stripped of the comforts and certainty of this world in order to find our sufficiency in Christ? Reflect and discuss.

Third World people understand that all you need is the Spirit of God and the Word of God with the people of God to carry out the mission of God, and they are right. Discuss.

LOOK IT OVER >>>

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:12 that on our best day we only know a little bit of what God is doing. If we allow that to paralyze us, we are no longer following. Allow it to bring us back to center, truly following. Reflect and discuss.

We crave certainty, God craves our trust. Our job is not to know, it is to follow Jesus and love people. Why do you think that is hard for us?

What insecurity makes it hardest for you to follow NOW? How does it "define your life"? Face your insecurities but don't follow them. How?

Every job each one of us has is our vehicle to be salt and light. How would you evaluate your priority here?

Does Jesus have our affections? Is He supremely satisfying? Will we let go of everything and follow Jesus? We have Someone worth losing everything for. Are we willing?" Penetrating questions. Reflect, and then pray aloud.

NEXT STEPS

1. Evaluate the evidence for you being a fan or a follower.
2. Do your priorities match your daily life?
3. Wherever you find discrepancies, act.

EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: If who Jesus claims to be is false, He is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance...

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily.

Monday: Matthew 16:24

Tuesday: Romans 14:7; 2 Corinthians 5:15

Wednesday: 2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:20

Thursday: Galatians 2:20

Friday: Philippians 3:7-8

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)