

## Summary

Pastor Mike Sigmund explores the difference between being a fan and a follower of Jesus Christ, using his father's devoted following of the Philadelphia Phillies as an illustration. Through Matthew 4:18-22, where Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him, the pastor examines what it means to truly follow Jesus. He emphasizes that Jesus extends a sovereign invitation to follow Him, and our response must be immediate, complete, and in faith. The message challenges believers to examine whether they are merely enthusiastic admirers of Jesus or truly devoted followers who have surrendered every area of their lives to His lordship.

## Intro Prayer

Father, we come before You today with open hearts, ready to hear what You want to teach us through Your Word. We ask that You would prepare our minds and spirits to receive the truth You have for us. Help us to be honest with ourselves as we examine our relationship with Jesus. Remove any distractions or preconceptions that might hinder us from truly understanding what it means to follow You. Give us the courage to respond to whatever You reveal to us today. We pray that our time together would draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Ice Breaker

What's something you've been a devoted fan of (sports team, hobby, TV show, etc.) that you've stuck with even when it wasn't going well?

## Key Verses

1. Matthew 4:18-22
2. Matthew 6:24
3. Matthew 6:33
4. John 15:16

## Questions

1. What struck you most about the difference between being a fan versus a follower of Jesus? How would you describe the difference in your own words?
2. Pastor Mike mentioned that Jesus took the initiative to call His disciples, unlike other rabbis of His time. How does it feel to know that Jesus has chosen and invited you to follow Him?
3. The disciples responded 'immediately' and 'at once' to Jesus' call. What are some areas in your life where you've delayed responding to what you sense God is asking of you?
4. What does it mean practically to put Jesus first in your daily life while still maintaining your job,

relationships, and responsibilities?

5. The pastor talked about bringing Jesus with you into your work, hobbies, and free time. Can you share an example of how you've done this or how you could do this better?
6. Peter and Andrew left their nets, and James and John left their father and the family business. What might God be asking you to 'leave behind' to follow Him more completely?
7. The disciples didn't know where they were going or what they would be doing, but they knew who they were following. How does trusting in who Jesus is help us when we're uncertain about the future?
8. Pastor Mike mentioned that 100% of our possessions belong to Jesus, not just the 10% we tithe. How does this perspective challenge or change how you think about your resources and belongings?

## **Life Application**

This week, identify one specific area of your life where you've been putting off following Jesus completely. It could be in your relationships, work, finances, time management, or a decision you know you need to make. Take one concrete step this week to surrender that area to Jesus and follow His leading. Consider sharing this commitment with someone who can pray for you and hold you accountable.

## **Key Takeaways**

1. Jesus extends a sovereign invitation to follow Him - we don't choose Him, He chooses us
2. True discipleship requires an immediate, complete, and faith-filled response to Jesus' call
3. Following Jesus means putting Him first in every area of life, not just attending church on Sundays
4. We can trust Jesus even when we don't know where He's leading because we know who He is
5. Being a follower means bringing Jesus into our work, relationships, and daily activities, not compartmentalizing our faith

## **Ending Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank You for the reminder that You have called each of us to be more than fans - You've called us to be devoted followers. We confess that there are areas of our lives where we've been holding back, where we've been enthusiastic admirers rather than surrendered disciples. Help us to respond immediately to Your voice, completely with our whole lives, and in faith even when we can't see the full picture. Show us this week how to bring You into every aspect of our lives - our work, our relationships, our free time, and our resources. Give us the courage to leave behind anything that hinders us from following You wholeheartedly. Thank You that we can trust You completely because of who You are. In Your precious name we pray. Amen.