

Fair-weather Followers

"As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go'" (Luke 9:57).

It is the bottom of the seventh inning your team is down six runs. The star player is on the injured list. The team is having its worst season in a decade. The playoffs were out of the picture a month ago. Things don't look good for your team. Do you stay or do you go? Deep down, are you a "fair-weather fan?" Factors in sports, of course, are much different when compared to the circumstances surrounding Christian discipleship, but I do think we can draw a comparison... As Christians, we are to be loyal and committed to Jesus. Even when things aren't going our way. The suffering seems never-ending. The trials come one after another. And the circumstances are screaming a negative message. Unlike a "fair-weather fan," we don't need to leave the stadium and give up on Christ, the ultimate champion!

Jesus encountered many what we can refer to as "fair-weather followers." One man in particular was as bold as to say that he would follow Jesus anywhere and everywhere. Yet in response, he, like the others were exposed in their lack of genuine commitment to Jesus. Being homeless, roaming around Galilee preaching the Gospel, getting kicked out of the synagogues, leaving your family, occupation, and so forth didn't seem very appealing. As you read about these accounts in Luke 9:57-62, one can easily point the finger and say: "Come on, guys..." Yet I am convinced that the exposure and examination of our own hearts is what needs to be in focus.

Are some of us Christians today, "Fair-weather followers?" Do we choose comfort over carrying the cross? When the season isn't full of success, do we leave the stadium? When the sunshine leaves and the storms come, what do we do?

Well, as followers of Christ, we need to keep in mind that Jesus never promised a fair-weather forecast. In fact, He foretold the opposite. He told us that following Him in a world that is full of sin and enmity towards God was going to be tough, to say the least (John 15:18-25). Jesus did not promise fair weather; yet He did promise to be with us in every kind of weather. Sunshine or rain, Jesus will always be reigning as King. And so, when the going gets tough, and the temptation to leave comes, don't do it. Life's circumstances are not to be the defining factor for a follower of Jesus. No, the empty tomb and the victory of Jesus Christ over the devil, sin, the powers of this world, and death itself are.

May your daily profession of faith be like that of the Apostle Peter's. After hearing some of Jesus' hard truths about the Kingdom of God, many followers of Christ left Jesus' presence for good... John records it was then that Jesus turned to the Twelve and said: *"Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life"* (John 6:66-68). The Son is always shining, even when it's cloudy... Don't be a fair-weather follower! Truly follow Jesus wherever and forever!

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis

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