

The Follower's Trail Guide

NAVIGATING THE PATH OF JESUS

OPENING UP



Are you a super fan of anything/one? Perhaps a sports team, band, celebrity, movie franchise, or TV show? What would signify to others that you're a fan?

TEXT



Which Way? | John 13:21-38

²¹ After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. ²³ One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side,^[a] ²⁴ so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus^[b] of whom he was speaking. ²⁵ So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

(turn to the ESV Bible to continue reading vv. 36-38)

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: The world knows who we follow by how we love one another.

1. The self-interested follow Satan. (vv. 21-30)
2. The self-confident follow the flesh. (vv. 36-38)
3. The God-centered follow Jesus. (vv. 31-35)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- The passage and message this week focused on the marks of a Christian. In your experience, how are Christians usually identified as Christians?
- In this week's passage we saw how selfishness and arrogance drew Judas and Peter away from Christ. Our first example, Judas, betrayed Jesus out of selfishness and self-interest. How have you seen selfishness impact your own life and draw you away from the Lord?
- Our second example, Peter, acted arrogant and self-confident, yet denied Jesus three times. How does our own arrogance cause us to deny Jesus in our lives and actions?
- Read John 13:31-35. Jesus calls us to love others as he's loved us. What do you think this means? In your experience, how much importance has the church placed on the need for love between brothers and sisters-in-Christ? In what ways have you uniquely experienced the love of fellow Christ-followers?
- The big idea of this week's message was that "the world knows who we follow by how we love one another." Is this statement true of your life? If not, what would it look like for this to be true in your life? If so, share an example of how you practically love others.

LIFE CHALLENGE



Jesus' humility and sacrifice gives us the ultimate example of how to love others. Reflect upon what it would look like for you to love the people around you this week. Is there an area where you need to practice humility? Or perhaps God is calling you to make a sacrifice this week in order to serve someone else.

Share with your Life Group a practical way that you will love someone this week. Some ideas might include:

- Give up your Saturday night to watch a friend's kids so they can have a date night
- Clean up a mess you didn't make
- Make a meal for a friend in need
- Be the first to call and admit your wrongdoing during a fight
- Find a place to serve at your church campus or a local non-profit

CLOSING PRAYER



Lord Jesus, thank you for being the ultimate example of love for us! We can love others because you first loved us! Help us to be known as a people who love well. Help us to set aside any selfishness or arrogance that exists in our hearts and replace it with humility. Amen