

## Are We A Fan or A Follower?

### Famous Last Words:

Deuteronomy 6:1-25

### A Few Truths About God's Commands:

Exodus 19:5-6 Joshua 1:8-9 1 Samuel 15:22 James 1:22-25

- ✓ God's commands are always to **protect** and **provide** for us.
- ✓ We were created to live with **rules**, not **rebellion**.
- ✓ Following the commands brings **freedom**, not **bondage**.

### How Do You Love God?

Mark 12:28-34 Micah 6:8 Matthew 7:21 John 14:15, 23-24, 15:10 1 John 5:2-3

- ✓ It has more to do with what **we do**, than how **we feel**.
- ✓ It has to start in our **heart**, then goes to our **family**.
- ✓ Realize that **success** can be our greatest **enemy**.

### Taking This Back Home:

## Food for Thought for the week of July 24, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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1. As followers of Jesus we follow a big God. Knowing how big he is helps us to continue to follow even when the following gets tough. As you read the descriptions of God listed below, write down what each one says about how big God is, and then on a scale of 1-to-5 (5 being highest), rate how well it fits into your current perception of God.

**Jeremiah 10:10** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>10</sup> But the LORD is the true God;  
he is the living God, the eternal King.  
When he is angry, the earth trembles;  
the nations cannot endure his wrath.

**Psalms 25:8-15** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.  
<sup>9</sup> He guides the humble in what is right  
and teaches them his way.  
<sup>10</sup> All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful  
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.  
<sup>11</sup> For the sake of your name, LORD,  
forgive my iniquity, though it is great.  
<sup>12</sup> Who, then, are those who fear the LORD?  
He will instruct them in the ways they should choose.  
<sup>13</sup> They will spend their days in prosperity,  
and their descendants will inherit the land.  
<sup>14</sup> The LORD confides in those who fear him;  
he makes his covenant known to them.  
<sup>15</sup> My eyes are ever on the LORD,  
for only he will release my feet from the snare.

**Psalms 86:5** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>5</sup> You, Lord, are forgiving and good,  
abounding in love to all who call to you.

**Psalms 86:8-10** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>8</sup> Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;  
no deeds can compare with yours.  
<sup>9</sup> All the nations you have made  
will come and worship before you, Lord;  
they will bring glory to your name.  
<sup>10</sup> For you are great and do marvelous deeds;  
you alone are God.

**Psalms 116:5-6** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is gracious and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.  
<sup>6</sup> The LORD protects the unwary;  
when I was brought low, he saved me.

Is there one passage or principle that is more important than the others for you to remember?

**2.** How we respond to difficult choices often reveals if we're living like a "fan" or a "follower" of Jesus. Jesus is our ultimate example of how to make these kinds of choices and to be "all in." Below are a number of situations Jesus encountered where he had to make a choice of how to respond. As you read the passages, write down the choice he made, the attitude or action he portrayed, and/or any challenges or opposition he encountered (from others or possibly even within himself).

**Mark 1:35-45** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place*

<sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

<sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." <sup>39</sup> So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

*Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy*

<sup>40</sup> A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

<sup>41</sup> Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" <sup>42</sup> Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

<sup>43</sup> Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: <sup>44</sup> "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." <sup>45</sup> Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

**Matthew 14:13-21** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand*

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

<sup>15</sup> As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

<sup>17</sup> "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

<sup>18</sup> "Bring them here to me," he said. <sup>19</sup> And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. <sup>20</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**John 8:1-7** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.<sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

**John 13:1-17** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet*

<sup>1</sup> It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

<sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

<sup>8</sup> "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

<sup>9</sup> "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

<sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Looking at your notes above, is there one trait or response that is harder or more uncomfortable for you to live out than the others? If so, explain.

**3.** Psalm 112 reads like a grocery list of the actions and character qualities of a righteous man or woman with the kind of character God calls his followers to live out. As you read through this Psalm, use your own words to make a list of all the actions, character qualities, and blessings you can identify. Are there any you want to further develop and make sure you don't forget?

**Psalm 112** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> *Praise the LORD.*

Blessed are those who fear the LORD,  
who find great delight in his commands.

<sup>2</sup> Their children will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
and their righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,  
for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.

- <sup>5</sup> Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely,  
who conduct their affairs with justice.
- <sup>6</sup> Surely the righteous will never be shaken;  
they will be remembered forever.
- <sup>7</sup> They will have no fear of bad news;  
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- <sup>8</sup> Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;  
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.
- <sup>9</sup> They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor,  
their righteousness endures forever;  
their horn will be lifted high in honor.
- <sup>10</sup> The wicked will see and be vexed,  
they will gnash their teeth and waste away;  
the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.