

SERMON NOTES:

Follow the Leader (Matthew 7, Luke 9)

There is a phrase that often strikes fear in the heart of a young man, and sometimes a young woman. This is a conversation that can make people very uncomfortable, and is often postponed or put off as long as possible. The letters of the phrase are DTR. Some of you know what that stands for. **Define the Relationship.** This is the talk that takes place at some point in a romantic relationship to determine where things really stand in the relationship. Is it casual, or is it committed? Are we just staying friends, or is there more happening? Every couple at some point has to do this. It becomes awkward when one person is all in, and the other wants it to stay casual. Today I'm facilitating a DTR talk concerning the relationship between you and Jesus. When it comes to a relationship between you and Jesus, where do you think Jesus stands? Is he in or not in when it comes to the relationship? He's in. He's committed to you. Today as we begin this new series, the question is not so much where Jesus stands in the relationship; the question is where does Gary and you stand in this relationship with Jesus. Casual? Committed? Why does it matter? In Jesus' day, the pattern worked like this: "Stranger to Jesus—Admirer of Jesus—Follower of Jesus" Jesus is not looking for admirers. He's looking for followers. When you walk away today, it's my desire you will know exactly where you stand in the relationship, a stranger, and admirer or a follower. Your life and future depend on you having clarity on this.

Many people admired Jesus, but only a few devoted themselves to him, and followed him.

1. A man who crossed from admirer to follower. (John 3)
2. A man who stayed an admirer.

What does it mean to follow?

How do you know you've made a commitment and are following Jesus?

1. You've abandoned all hope that you can work your way into heaven, buy your way into heaven, or make a deal with God.
2. You have become willing to allow God to interfere with your life.
3. You follow Jesus through both good and bad. (Luke 9:23, 57-62)

Admirer 1: Is the relationship you have one of _____, or is it one of _____? (vv. 57,58)

Admirer 2 and 3: Is Jesus one of _____, or is He your one and _____?"

Don't ever forget! You have to make a choice.