**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

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**Overflow**

**Overflowing with Devotion**



**Bandwagon fan -** Bandwagon fans are defined as sports fans who have shown no past loyalty to a team, but only now support them because they are doing well.

**How to spot a bandwagon fan:**

1. Do they know the staff?
2. Do they know statistics?
3. Do they know historical info?
4. How many other teams do they support?
5. Ask them why they support the team?
6. Were they loyal when the going was tough?

**Devotion** - the act of dedicating something to a cause, enterprise, or activity; the fact or state of being ardently dedicated and loyal; religious fervor.

Devotion inspires **devotion**.

There are so many things to which we can be devoted.

**A story of devotion in the Old Testament**

*“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Go and say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will you not receive instruction and listen to my words? declares the Lord.”*

***Jeremiah 35:13***

**Is my devotion to Jesus sincere and pure?**

**Paul’s concern for the Christians at Corinth**

*But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a* ***sincere*** *and* ***pure*** *devotion to Christ.*

***2 Corinthians 11:3***

**Sincere** – genuine; free from deceit

**Pure** – not mixed or adulterated with any other substance; free from contamination

**Who or what are you devoted to?**

**If Jesus walked in the room today and asked you to go sell everything you owned and to follow him:**

* Would you do it? Why or why not?
* Would you stick with it, even if things got really tough?
* What might you stand to lose? What might you stand to gain?

*Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.* ***Luke 14:23-33***

Jesus seeks **sincere** and **pure** devotion.

1. Jesus invites us to be **followers** … not **fans**. Vs 26

Hate = to love less

1. Devotion to Jesus will always **cost** us **something**. Vs 27
2. Devoted followers **persevere** at all costs. Vs 29-32
3. Nothing else takes **first** place. Vs 33

*And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it,* ***but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it****. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?*  ***Luke 9:23-25***

It is a **WHATEVER**, **WHENEVER**, **WHEREEVER** commitment.

**A story of sincere and pure devotion:**

**The woman with the alabaster jar - Mark 14:3-9**

*And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an* ***alabaster flask of ointment*** *of pure nard,* ***very costly****, and* ***she broke the flask*** *and poured it over his head. There were some who said to themselves indignantly, “Why was the ointment wasted like that? For* ***this ointment could have been sold*** *for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And* ***they scolded her****. But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her?* ***She has done a beautiful thing to me****. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me.* ***She has done what she could****; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world,* ***what she has done will be told in memory of her****.”* ***Mark 14:3-9***

* Broke jar – represented no turning back – a gesture of complete devotion and abandonment
* The cost – “pouring away” her present/future on the Savior. She was betting it all!
* The house was filled with fragrance. Her devotion to Jesus filled the atmosphere around her.
* Notice that there was opposition to what she was doing.
* She did a beautiful thing.

There is always some **opposition** to be fully devoted to Jesus.

**Are you devoted to Jesus?**

Is your devotion sincere and pure? Is your devotion heartfelt, genuine, and unadulterated? Are you all in? A devoted follower or bandwagon fan?

1. We have everything to **gain** in devotion to Jesus.

*But all these things that I once thought very worthwhile—now I’ve thrown them all away so that I can put my trust and hope in Christ alone. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have put aside all else, counting it worth less than nothing, in order that I can have Christ, and become one with him, no longer counting on being saved by being good enough or by obeying God’s laws, but by trusting Christ to save me; for God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith—counting on Christ alone. Now I have given up everything else—I have found it to be the only way to really know Christ and to experience the mighty power that brought him back to life again, and to find out what it means to suffer and to die with him. So whatever it takes, I will be one who lives in the fresh newness of life of those who are alive from the dead.* ***Philippians 3:7-11***

1. If we love Jesus **most**, we will love others **best**.

Love precedes action.

Being precedes doing.

1. Devotion inspires **devotion.**

The greatest sermon we will ever preach is the life that we live. Our devotion to Jesus overflows to others.

*All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling[c] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.* ***2 Corinthians 5:18-20***

Old Hymn – I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

No **turning** back.

*And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.* ***1 Kings 19:21***