

Radiant Church | Pastor Lee Cummings

Get in The Game

Week 1 | Not Just a Fan

Luke 9:23-26 NKJV

*23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and **follow Me**. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? 26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.*

Introduction:

Football season. NFL, College Football. Television packages. Seasons tickets. Fantasy football. Jerseys. Tailgating. Sports Center. Armchair quarterback. Cheeseheads. FANS.

Superbowl 2015 = 128 Million Viewers

World Series 2016 = 20 million viewers

Fans paid in excess of \$50,000 for tickets

U of M Football program grosses \$58M a year

1. YOU WERE NOT MEANT TO BE A FAN OF JESUS

Definition of "fan" = *An admirer; a person who is very much interested in and spends a lot of time watching or reading about esp. an entertainer or sports team:*

Jesus calls you to something more: TO FOLLOW [Join in With] JESUS.

**A "follower" is a PARTICIPANT, a PLAYER in the Game
The GAME = THE KINGDOM**

- A. For A Fan = Interest
For A Follower = Passion (desire)**
- B. For A Fan = Observation
For A Follower = Participation**
- C. For A Fan = Option
For A Follower = Commitment**

2. YOU ARE BEING CALLED OUT OF THE STANDS

A. You were made for something bigger [SELF is your enemy]

1. *“deny himself”*

2. When we “deny ourselves” we can enter into something bigger.

Matthew 4:19

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

B. You are an important part of the WIN

Ephesians 4:16 NLT

16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

“take up his cross” = Your cross is unique.

“Your Cross” = Your Price. Your sacrifice.

C. The LIFE you are searching for isn't found in the STANDS

Luke 9:24 NKJV

“for whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost.”

Acts 20:35

“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus who he himself said “it is more blessed to give than to receive.”

FANS DON'T GET THE TROPHY, PLAYERS DO.

I Corinthians 9:25,26

*“Every athlete exercises self control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath [trophy] but we for an imperishable. **So I do not run aimlessly...***