

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR FOLLOWERS LEAVE YOU

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John 6: 53-66

The **SIGNIFICANCE** of a leader depends on the followers. The followers of a leader reveals how much influence the leader has. The followers expose what type of leader they are following. The followers magnify their leader's greatest or expose their weakness.

For example, a leader who attracts followers who are poor exposes the leader's affluence and influence to make them prosperous. A leader who attracts followers who are lonely and depressed expose the leader's joyful spirit. A follower will always follow the person they **WANT TO BE**.

Followers should be cared for and appreciated. However, if a follower decides to leave the care of their leader **LET THEM GO**. Even though a leader's significance is dependent on their followers, they are **NOT** defined by their followers.

King Jesus experienced a similar loss. John 6:53-66 says, "Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, you must eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood. Otherwise, you won't have real life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day. My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me, and I live in them. The living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father. So whoever eats me will live because of me. I am not like the bread your ancestors ate. They ate that bread and still died.

I am the bread that came down from heaven, and whoever eats this bread will live forever." Jesus said all these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. When

the followers of Jesus heard this, many of them said, "This teaching is hard. Who can accept it?" Knowing that his followers were complaining about this, Jesus said, "Does this teaching bother you?"

Then will it also bother you to see the Son of Man going back to the place where he came from? It is the Spirit that gives life. The flesh doesn't give life. The words I told you are spirit, and they give life.

But some of you don't believe." (Jesus knew from the beginning who did not believe and who would turn against him.) Jesus said, "That is the reason I said, 'If the Father does not bring a person to me, that one cannot come.' " After Jesus said this, many of his followers left him and stopped following him."

When Jesus preached this message He lost majority of His followers excluding the disciples. The loss of followers did not define who Jesus was. He was still a great leader. It did not change His leadership capability or ability.

There will be times when you have to make decisions that are controversial. These decisions may upset some people. They may disappoint other people. However, as a leader your decisions should benefit the overall good. If your decisions cause followers to leave you, it **DOES NOT** mean you did something wrong.

When followers leave you **LET THEM LEAVE**. At the end of the day, the one's who are suppose to be with you will be with you. People who are **ASSIGNED** to finish the race with you will be there through good and bad times.

1st john 2:19 says, "These enemies of Christ were in our fellowship, but they left us. They never really belonged to us; if they had been a part of us, they would have stayed with us. But they left, and this shows that none of them really belonged to us."

When followers are able to leave your leadership they **NEVER** belonged to you. Whoever has the heart to leave you did not have the assignment to stay with you. Do not get bitter when people leave, be grateful when they do.

Some people follow you because they are fascinated with what you do. Other people follow you because they believe in you. The people who **BELIEVE IN YOU** will never leave you.

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