

“Are You Committed or Merely Interested?”

“Then He (Jesus) said to *them* all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’” – *Luke 9:23*

On occasion, I check in with “Mike and Mike” a radio sports talk show broadcast weekdays on ESPN 2 beginning at 5:00 AM. This past Tuesday the two Mike’s (Greenberg and Golic) were contrasting how two professional quarterbacks responded to physical adversity they experienced the previous Sunday. One of the quarterbacks suffered a potentially serious injury to his non-throwing shoulder. Yet, he remained in the game until its end and he nearly led his team to an upset of a better team. The other quarterback suffered a sprained thumb on his throwing hand, and took himself out of the game. His team lost miserably...on national television!

Listen to the words of the first quarterback I mentioned, “I got a dad and an older brother who get up and go to work, and sometimes they don’t feel great. And they go — they go and they grind. I got two little boys...they’re playing football now. They get hit and they get banged up. I’m trying to teach them what toughness means. So for me, it’s those things. I don’t want to be out without my guys (his teammates).”

For football players and fans, the first quarterback is the one we love. He realizes that warriors leave everything they have on the field (even if they will miss significant playing time due to their injuries or risk permanent disability). Football is not a sport for the timid or faint of heart.

The second quarterback...well, suffice it to say, he has little respect with players on opposing teams, most fans (to include those who root for his team), and even, likely, some of his teammates. We’ve seen it with this lightweight over and over again...adversity shows his true faded colors.

A guest commentator on the radio talk show put it best when he said, “Some players are committed, and some are only interested.”

That got me to thinking about the Church. My experience is that some professing Christians are committed to Jesus and His Church, while some are merely interested. More importantly, God’s Word teaches this, as the verse at the top of this article point out.

You’re likely familiar with Jesus’ feeding of 5,000 hungry people with just five loaves of bread and two fishes. Many of the people feasting that day came back again the following day to fill their bellies. When that didn’t happen, they lost interest in Jesus and what He could do for them. Their level of interest was high as long as they were getting what they could with minimal effort and inconvenience. They were merely interested, nothing further, surely not committed.

Conversely, those who were fed, and continued to follow Jesus, whether there was another meal coming or not, were truly committed to following Him. They were true disciples through thick and thin. Nothing would stop them from following Jesus, even death.

If you’re reading this newsletter, it’s probably because you’re a professed follower of Jesus Christ and likely even a member of Trinity Church. I encourage you to consider whether you are a committed Christian, or merely one who is interested. What do you sacrifice to be with Jesus and His Church? Does a headache, allergies, or sore leg keep you from attending worship on the most important day of the week (Sunday)? In what ways are you involved in the various ministries of the Church? What does your checkbook or wallet say about your commitment level to your church family? Are you merely dating the church, or have you committed to the church by joining its membership? Think, pray, and where needed, act. See you on Sunday? **Pastor Daren**