



**DGM Message Title: Who do you Run To?**

**Theme: Believer or Disciple?**

**Sermon Date: 12/31/2017**

**Message Summary:** When times get hard in your life and you fall short, who do you run to? Do you run to the One who can help or away from Him? Who you run to is important because it is an indication of whether you are a believer or a disciple. The difference between the two is very important in your walk with Christ. Both believers and disciples fall short, but only one keeps pushing through.

**Scripture References (NKJV):**

- John 8:31-32
- John 8:31 (NIV)
- Luke 22:47-48
- Matthew 27:1-3
- Matthew 27:4-5
- John 18:15-17
- John 21:7-8; 12

**Key Points:**

John 8:31 (NKJV)

- Who was Jesus speaking to? Believers!
- The New Testament is called a will or a testament (some even call it a new covenant).
  - It was designed to be read like a contract.
- 'If' starts this verse.
  - It is a conjunction used to introduce a conditional cause.
  - A certain condition must be met before something else becomes obligatory.
  - "The large print giveth and the small print taketh away." –Tom Waits
- If you abide in His word, then you are His disciple.
  - The prerequisite to receiving both benefits and rewards of a disciple is found in a Greek word *menō*, translated to abide.
    - Abide means to accept and act in accordance with.
    - So, a disciple is not just a hearer, he/she is a doer.
    - If you accept, act in accordance with or live out Jesus' Word, then you are His disciple.
- All believers are not necessarily or automatically disciples, but all disciples are believers.
- If you follow Jesus' Word, then you are His disciple 'Indeed.'
  - "Indeed" means unmistakably, undeniably, and with certainty.
- We may not always know with certainty who is a believer, but you will always be able to tell who a disciple is.

- As a disciple, you're not always going to fit in with other believers; the good news is 'great people never do.'

John 8:31 (NIV)

- The major difference between a believer and a disciple is that he/she believes and holds on.
- A real disciple doesn't give up just because it is hard.
  - Nothing worth having ever comes easy.
  - Every believer has an option; the word "if" denotes this.
  - Continue... keep at it to make it through!
- A disciple doesn't quit, he/she perseveres.
  - If you keep at it, then you are His disciple.

John 8:32 (NKJV)

- This verse explains the importance of discipleship.
- The disciple will know the truth.
- A disciple obeys.
  - The fact that someone is "only" a believer is the reason they are not free.
  - Believers merely believe, but a disciple obeys and does.
  - **God only promised disciples freedom, and not believers.**
  - **Believers come, but disciples continue.**
- Disciples don't quit, they continue and hold on until it works.

### Observation of Two men through the lens of being a Believer and a Disciple:

Luke 22:47 NKJV

- Judas draws near to kiss Jesus.
- This kiss was very important in history.
- It was beautiful on the outside, but rotten to the core on the inside.

Luke 22:48 NKJV

- Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss.
- "Wearing a cross around your neck will not make you a disciple, carrying one does."  
—A.W. Tozer.

Matthew 27:1-3

- Judas was remorseful when he knew Jesus was going to be killed, so he knew there was something good about Jesus.
- The issue was Judas was a believer, but when it got hard, he didn't continue.
- The people you run to when you make a mistake, makes all the difference in the world.
  - Judas ran to Christ's enemies (the chief priests).

Matthew 27:4

- Judas called Jesus innocent which meant he believed great things about Jesus but didn't believe enough to continue.
- Judas went back to his old church instead of continuing with the disciples.
  - A little bit of kindness could have saved Judas, but his church turned their backs on him.
- Going back can cost you everything when God told you to stay away.
- If you start hanging out with wolves, you better be ready to howl.

Matthew 27:5

- Judas hung himself.
- The reason Judas' life ended so badly was instead of walking with Jesus through a mistake, he walked away.
- It's not that disciples don't make mistakes, they just didn't give up.

**Another disciple made the same mistake, but received different results - Peter**

John 18:15-17

- Judas only betrayed Jesus once, Peter betrayed Jesus 3 times in 1 day.

John 21:7

- Peter kept hanging out with the right people.
  - This was the major difference that separated him from Judas.
- Who you run to, when you make a mistake, matters!
  - Church matters more than you realize.
- When Judas sinned, he ran to the priest and the Pharisees, but when Peter sinned, he swam to Jesus.
- This is the real issue: **Judas did not believe in Jesus' mercy.**
  - Judas' mistake was that his faith was in himself.
  - But when he couldn't believe in himself he fell apart.
- Part of being a good disciple is recognizing that you will fall short but can do all things through Christ.
  - There are many believers living their lives in their own strength.
  - There are many believers that believe some things about Jesus, but don't really believe that He's a Savior; He can fix it or handle it.
- Nothing you can confess could make Jesus love you less.
  - Peter believed this.

John 21:8

- The only reason they remained disciples is because they continued.
- Again, being a disciple is not about being better than, but about continuing.
  - Judas wasn't any less moral than the other disciples, He just didn't know who to run to.
  - **A disciple goes as far as they can, then somehow takes another step.**
  - Judas went as far as he could, then fell back.
    - The difference between Judas & Peter is that Peter was willing to hang in there and Judas wasn't.
- **This year God in going to put something in you so you will be able to stand!**
  - The reason you can't stand is because you are a believer, but when you become a disciple, you can do what you weren't able to do before.

John 21:12

- Why did Judas end up in an early grave, and Peter ended up having breakfast with Jesus?
  - One man chose to continue to run to Jesus, the other man chose to quit.
- The more you run to Jesus, the less wrong you do.

- If you continue in His word, then you will be a disciple, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.