Game Day

*O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.* (Psalm 63:1-5, NIV)

We love sports in America, especially football. Flags can be seen flying through the air attached to cars, trucks, trailers, and even in front yards. People will do some crazy things for the teams that they love. But what would our country be like if we were as eager to follow Christ as we are to follow our favorite team? What would America look like if we were as eager to get to church service on Sunday mornings as we were to get to the stadium on game day?

The word “fan” comes from the word “fanatic” and is used to describe all of us that are zealous to follow a particular team. Some fans will go to great lengths to display their pride and fervor, including screaming until there is no voice left in them, painting or even tattooing their bodies, all in an effort to declare their love and support for a specific team. What if we did that for Jesus Christ? Some fans come from hundreds of miles away, sometimes even traveling through multiple states, to attend just one game. Have you ever drove through several states for one church service?

All week the previous game is critiqued and discussed at workplaces across the nation. They dissect every play and second guess the coach’s decision to call pass play on the two-yard line. DVRs are set to record the game, pregame show, postgame wrap-up, press conference, and even sport’s talk shows on cable. We are dedicated football fans, but where is that same level of dedication to Jesus Christ? Imagine what the streets would look like if every car, truck, minivan, and front yard had a Christian flag waving instead of a football flag. Think of what our weeks would be like if we were to pore over last Sunday’s sermon in the same way we pore over game footage. Let’s be fanatics for Jesus.