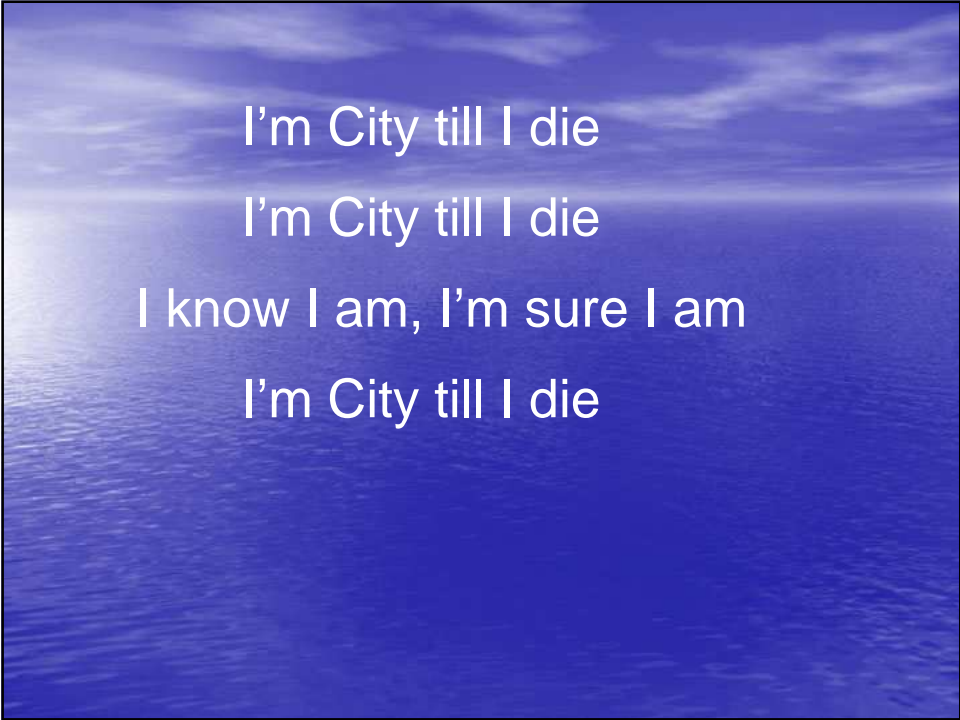




# Loyalty



I'm City till I die  
I'm City till I die  
I know I am, I'm sure I am  
I'm City till I die

## Sung by supporters from:

- Birmingham
- Bradford
- Cardiff
- Coventry
- Exeter
- Hull
- Leicester
- Manchester
- Norwich
- Salisbury
- Stoke-on-Trent
- Swansea
- York

## Why support a particular team?

The team from your home town?



Some other family connection?

Fashion?



Is your  
support a real  
commitment



Are you a fair-weather supporter,  
only when they're successful?



MANUTD.COM - THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE

English

2007/08 EUROPEAN & PREMIER LEAGUE  
**CHAMPIONS**



Price for support of Germany  
in Euro 2008

£2 per supporter

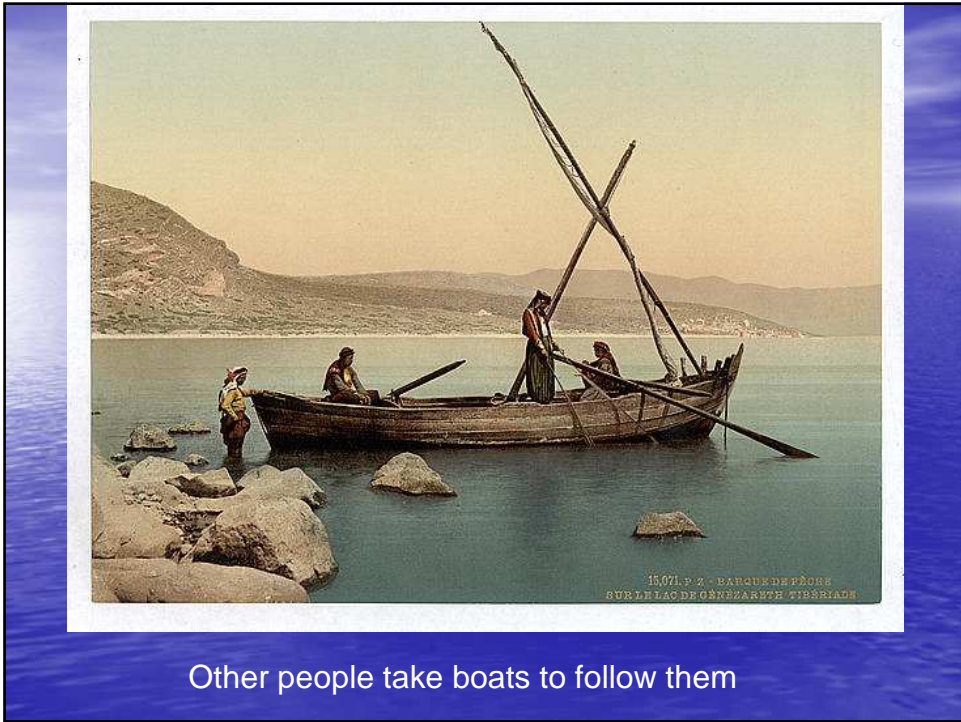
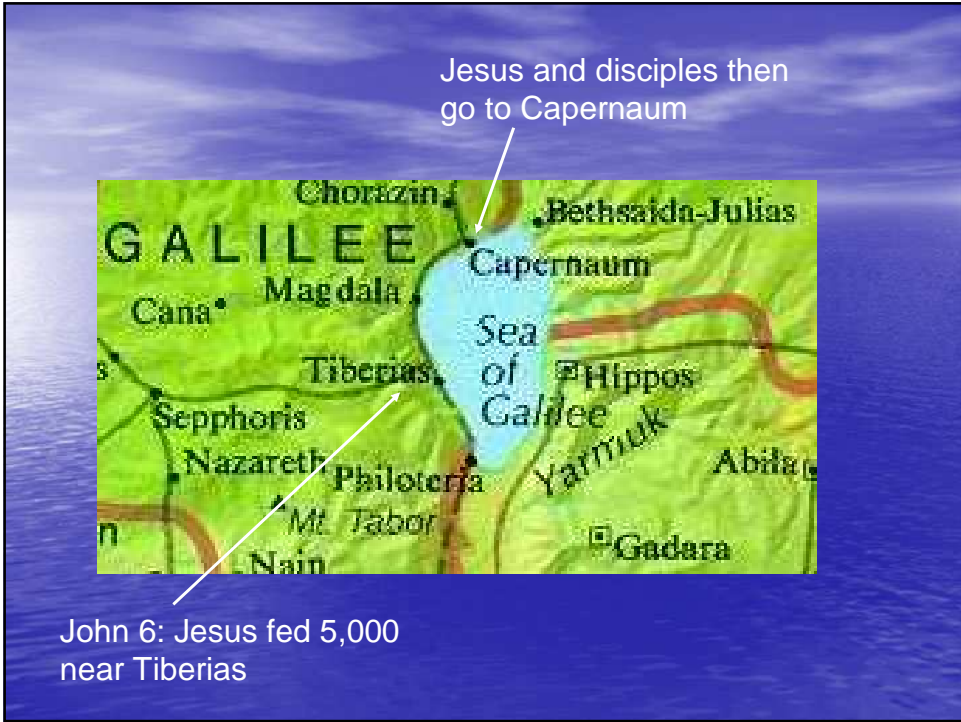
## Family loyalty?

- Mr Neal Metcalfe of Nelson
- Found 11 bullets in his son's bag
  - Police found a pistol he was storing
- Informed police
- 19-year-old sentenced to 3 years in prison
  - Father thought it rather long
- Loyalty to Law greater than family loyalty

From The Times 21/6/08



View from Tiberias across sea of Galilee



## Why did people follow him?

- 6:25-26 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled."
- Jesus explains the difference between this bread and the important food vv 27-36

## A choice had to be made

- 6:66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"
- 6:68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

## The disloyal one

- 6:70, 71 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

## Loyalty in politics



### How is policy made?

"Twice a year, in spring and autumn, elected representatives from \*\*\* constituency parties assemble at the party conference to establish party policy - the \*\*\* priorities for UK government."

Hebrews 13 vv 8 & 9 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines.

## Religious loyalty

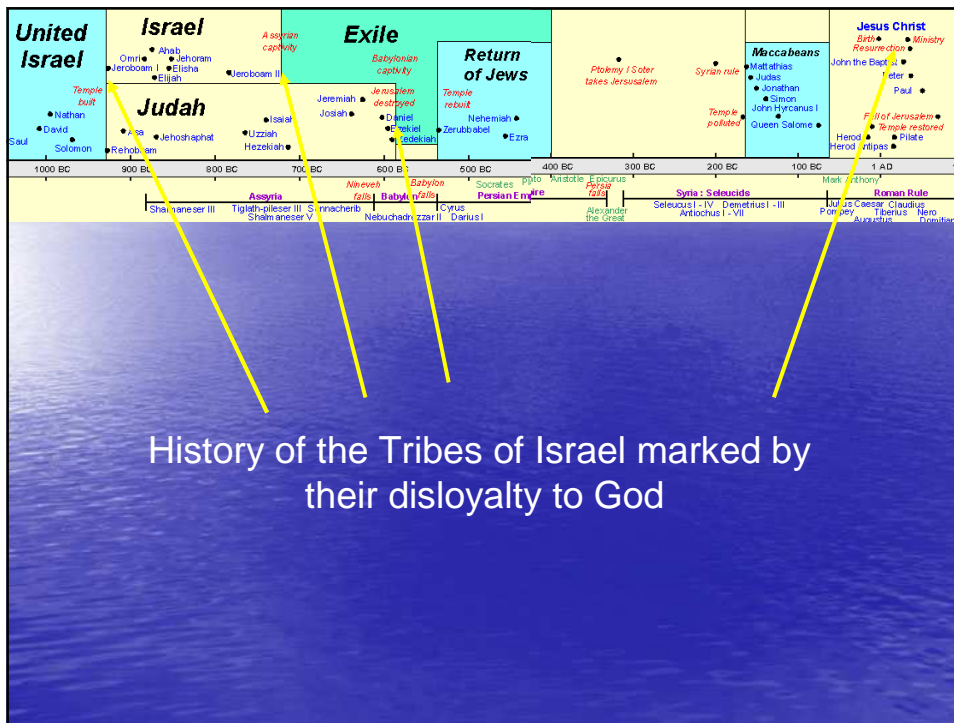


Is it any more than a cultural preference?

## Potter



- Jeremiah 18 vv 1-4
  - Vessel not “fit for purpose” destroyed
  - Applies to Israel
- “Ask now among the Gentiles, Who has heard such things? The virgin of Israel has done a very horrible thing. Will a man leave the snow water of Lebanon, Which comes from the rock of the field? Will the cold flowing waters be forsaken for strange waters? Because My people have forgotten Me, They have burned incense to worthless idols.”



## Peter's loyalty tested

- Failure
  - 18:25-27 Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not!" One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed.



## Peter's loyalty tested

- Success

– 21:18, 19 "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me.

## Loyal life

- I Peter 4:1,2 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
- 4:3,4 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles-when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

## Moses (Hebrews 11 vv 24 - 27)

- By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
- esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.
- By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

## Loyalty (1)

- We can be loyal to something that is inconsequential
  - Sports teams
- We can show loyalty when a reward is obvious
  - Successful team
  - Material reward
    - Food for 5,000

## Loyalty (2)

- We can seek to change the object of our loyalty
  - Political policies
  - Judas Iscariot

## God asks our loyalty...

- ...to his unchanging self
- ...to leave behind the things the world enjoys
- ...possibly at great cost
  - And no immediate reward
- ...for a promise of life in his Kingdom

Simon Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."