



# Mind Your Own Business!

John 21:18-25

# Observations

- At this point in Jesus' life we have a “resurrected Jesus,” appearing to His disciples after they had decided to go back to what they were used to doing: fishing for fish rather than being fishers of people.
- Jesus meets them, unrecognized on the shore, and shouts instructions to them on where to locate the fish in the water, causing them to catch a huge number of fish, John 21:4-14
- The apostle John immediately identified the man on the shore as Jesus because of a historically identical encounter when they first met Jesus, and they began to navigate the boat to the shore to see Him. They didn't ask, “*who are you?*”

**They Knew!**

- Once Peter hears who it is, he dives into the water and heads toward Jesus on the shore, visibly showing his enthusiasm

# Jesus Prepared a Fish Dinner for the Disciples But Needed to Speak Privately With Peter, John 21:15-17

- Jesus felt a need for Peter to reaffirm his loyalty. The last time they were together, Peter swore he didn't know Jesus
- "Peter, do you love me more than these?" - The fish (material possessions; for us it would be a job, status, money, things)
- On each confession of love, Peter says "yes" I do love you
- But Jesus indicated that the love that He was challenging Peter with:
  - Was not a sentimental love, or a brotherly love (phileo)
  - Was not a love based on "feelings" or a simple "verbal confession"
- But it was a love that needed to be accompanied by action  
"Feed my lambs," "Tend My Lambs," "Feed My Sheep"- In other words teach and spiritually care for my disciples

## After Peter Confesses His Love to Jesus Three Times, Jesus Says This: John 21:18-19

*Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go. Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to him, "Follow Me!"*

- Jesus is really dead serious in his conversation to Peter
- He has addressed him formally, "Simon, son of John" *not Bro.*
- Jesus says, "Very truly," - what he is saying is exclusively for Peter's ears to hear, which was the prediction of what would happen to Peter at the end of his life.
- Jesus wants Peter to, "count the cost" in advance rather than just give the right answer to the question. *What would "loving Jesus" entail?*

# Observations

- **Christian tradition says that, about 34 years after this incident, when Peter was about 75 years old, he was arrested because of his faith in Jesus Christ under emperor Nero of Rome**
- **Thinking that he was unworthy to be crucified like Christ, he asked that he be placed on the cross upside-down**
- **I don't think that any of us welcomes suffering in our lives. It's only natural for us to try to avoid negative experiences.**
- **But the circumstances of our lives inevitably will change.**
- **Following Jesus will lead us through the valley of death or into situations requiring greater physical, social, and spiritual sacrifices on our part**
- **That was Jesus' message to Peter, and is His message to us today**

# Observations

- **PLEASE RECOGNIZE** that in this conversation between Jesus and Peter, **YOU AND I** are Peter (this conversation is recorded for us)
- Jesus' question to us is: *"Do you really love me?"*
- If the answer to that question is yes, then you will care about those that He cares about (His sheep or His Godly children)

And you will follow Him for the rest of your days, *No Matter What the Consequences Are to You in Life and in Death!*

- Following Jesus won't always be easy, Matthew 16:24
- Being crucified with Christ is not easy, Galatians 2:20

Crucifying Jealousy, Pride, Independence, Lust *"... clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh."* Rom 14:13

## Observations

- **Remember that everything that God allows to come into a Christian's life is meant to "glorify God" – To Put Christ on Display**
- **God wouldn't allow it if He didn't give you the ability to use it for his glory**
- **We think "glorifying God" is just about counting our blessings. Peter would glorify God in life and in his death**
- **If your trials and troubles don't give God the Glory, don't blame God! Don't blame the Giver, blame the Receiver!**
- **God will always make available the wisdom, the strength, the power, and the ability to deal with our trials. James 1:2-5**
- **God wouldn't be glorified if He didn't give you the strength to overcome YOUR TRIALS! 1 Peter 4:15-16**

## Then We Get to the Crux of This Lesson

- **When Peter realizes that Jesus had just foretold his future and final days on earth, he looks at John and asked Jesus:**

***What about this man?***

- **By studying the text it's clear that the unnamed disciple Peter is discussing the apostle John, the writer of this text.**
- **Knowing human nature, we don't want to be the only one who has to go through hard times, *"What's in store for him?"***
- **We want God to distribute His blessings and His trials equally**
- ***"If I'm going to have a hard time, I don't want to be alone in it!" I believe that these were Peter's thoughts***
- **Isn't that just like us? We're willing to follow Jesus as long as it appears that we are not suffering too much. *"If I have to suffer, it shouldn't be anymore than anyone else!"***



# Jesus Answers Peter's Question With This Terse Reply!

*"If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."*

- Jesus explains to Peter and to us where we must keep our focus as we journey through life
- Troubles come to us when we look at how God is blessing someone else and wonder why isn't God giving us what they have! God reminds Peter and us to:

## **Mind Your OWN Business!**

- God reminds Peter that his job was to follow and not to complain or compare his life with John's life or anyone else's
- Peter, don't worry about what you can't fully understand

# Mind Your Own Business

- What Jesus is doing in someone else's life is none of our business
- If God wants to bless "Bro. or Sis. Comucah" with good health but you can't stay out of the hospital, that's God's business! God says, "you follow me!"
- If God blesses Sis. Comucah with a new car, that's God's business! And if your, "old betsy" is all you can manage right now "*financially*," God says, "you follow me!"
- If your sister's children finish high school, "magna cum laude," and go to college, but your children only finish high school, "lawdy have mercy," God says, "you follow me!"
- If your child has physical or mental challenges and your friend's child can choose between academic scholarships, that's God's business. God says, "you follow me."

**Blinders are placed on racehorses to restrict their vision to the side and the rear, to keep them focused on what's ahead**

**Blinders encourage horses to pay attention and not be distracted by the other horses and the crowds.**

**When we focus on Jesus we don't get distracted by God dealing with someone else in a different way. Jesus simply says, "Follow Me!"**

**Jesus in Essence Tells Peter to Put Your Blinders On!**



## Jesus Is Asking Us Two Questions

- **Do You Love Me?**
- **Will You Follow Me No Matter the Circumstance?**

***Your Answer To These Two Questions Will Determine Your Destiny***

- **John 14:15, If we love Jesus we will keep His commandments**
- **Romans 8:35-39, Jesus will join us in our circumstances**

# The Plan of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**

**Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**

**Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**

**Acts 8:38**

