

# “Gospel of John – Personal Discipleship”

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## Scripture

### John 21:18-25

“Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you and bring you where you do not wish to go.” Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, **He said to him, "Follow Me!"**

Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

So, Peter seeing him said to Jesus, "**Lord, and what about this man?**" Jesus said to him, "**If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!**"

Therefore, this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but only, "**If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?**"

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

### John 20:30-31

Therefore, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

## Last Week

We looked at Peter’s impatience and remorse which led to a little rebellion

But Jesus showed up with restoration on His mind

He asked if Peter loved him

## This Week

We finish up the Gospel of John

It’s a discussion of Personal Discipleship

How many of you can say that this the first time you went through an entire gospel?

August 21, 2022 -> the first message, an introduction to the Gospel of John

This is Sermon #72 of John’s Gospel

What a journey!

We begin today where we ended last week

Peter's little rebellion ended up with Jesus restoring Peter to the right focus for his life

He was no longer to be a fisherman, but a fisher of men

He was to Feed the Lambs, Shepherd the Sheep, and Feed the Sheep

That was his new career

## Rededication

### John 21:18-19

"Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you and bring you where you do not wish to go." Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, **He said to him, 'Follow Me!'**"

After having the Lord question his commitment

Not once, not twice, but THREE times

Peter could have had considerable doubt about his future

He could be thinking, "Maybe I'm not cut out for this?"

That is not the case, at all

Paul posed the rhetorical question: "If the Lord is for us, who can be against us?"

Peter's doubt about his future ministry is assured by the Lord

He WILL be a faithful shepherd

So much so, that he will follow the Lord to his own cross

Peter hears the Lord's command -> **'Follow Me!'**

When Jesus first came on the scene, what did He tell Peter?

Mark's Gospel records Peter's view of the Lord's ministry

### Mark 1:16-18

"As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "**Follow Me**, and I will make you become fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him."

Jesus said, "Follow Me" -> and they immediately dropped everything and followed Him

They left their fishing profession

When the Lord calls, His chosen immediately follow, right?

At the beginning call, Jesus told Peter to follow Him

At the last call, what does Jesus tell Peter?

Follow Me!

What do you think the Lord is telling us now?

If you believe in Jesus, you better follow Him

Often though, we tend to lose focus on the Lord

Peter did, too:

### The Wrong Focus

#### John 21:20-21

“Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, ‘Lord, who is the one who betrays You?’ So, Peter seeing him said to Jesus, ‘**Lord, and what about this man?**’ Jesus said to him, ‘**If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!**’”

Peter is walking with Jesus

Then he looks back to see John following them

Peter asks, “**‘Lord, and what about this man?’**” -> “**‘Hey, John went fishing, too!’**”

The Lord told Peter he was going to be faithful to the end and be crucified

He wants to know if John is also going to go that same route

Jesus tells him, “**‘If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?’**”

What’s Jesus’s point to Peter here?

“You have enough to focus in on with yourself, Peter”

“You don’t need to concern yourself with anyone else!”

We tend to be curious and even judgmental about the Lord’s plans for other churches and ministries

The disciples had some concerns a few years before:

#### Mark 9:38-40

“John said to Him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and **we tried to prevent him because he was not following us.**” But Jesus said, “**Do not hinder him**, for there is no one who will perform a miracle in My name and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me. For he who is not against us is for us.”

Effectively, Jesus told them, “Stay in your lane”

Jesus has plans for many people to spread His word

Many minister to others -> we should let them do the ministry that the Lord has for them to do

As long as they are teaching the truth, that is -> See the Book of Jude for that imperative

What does the Lord tell Peter? -> Don’t worry about John’s and his ministry! -> **You follow Me!**

Great advice for all of us -> We, first, need to focus on our own personal discipleship

Jesus had that same theme in the Sermon on the Mount

We are to focus on ourselves before focusing on others

### Matthew 7:1-5

“Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For **in the way you judge, you will be judged**; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? **You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.**”

Jesus is not saying that we should not consider and view the lives of others

We are to help each other walk in faith

That includes encouragement as well as admonishment, at times

How can we do that without examining others?

But we certainly are told that we need to consider our own discipleship prior

And we should judge righteously and with great grace

Peter needed to focus on his own life first

Why?

He denied the Lord 3 times and he led a mini rebellion

Jesus simply tells him to “Follow” like he originally did three years before

John then takes the opportunity to comment on his recording of the Gospel

### John's Life Testimony

#### John 21:23-24

“Therefore, this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but only, **‘If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?’** This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.”

John was the last living Apostle

All the others were martyred

His reputation was to live until the end

He lived past the end of the temple in Jerusalem -> it was sacked by the Romans in A.D. 70

People could have thought that is what Jesus meant when He said:

**‘If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?’**

Clearly, that is not what Jesus meant

“This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true”

John comments on his Gospel saying that He was an eyewitness to these events

John signs on the bottom line -> my testimony is true

John then shares a comment on the other things he could have recorded:

## Jesus's Works

### John 21:25

“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even **the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.**”

What a way to end his Gospel

The world couldn't contain all that Jesus did

All the healings, all the teachings, all the moments of caring for His sheep

Suffice it to say that John only selected a small amount for a particular purpose

We must go back to the end of John 20 for that purpose:

## John's Purpose in Writing

### John 20:30-31

“Therefore, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written **so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.**”

We started with this verse 71 sermon messages ago, way back in August of 2022

- John set out to prove to us that Jesus was God
- John set out to convince us that Jesus is the Christ
- John set out to show us that Jesus was the Son of God
- John set out to encourage us to believe so that we could have eternal life by believing in Jesus

How did John do in your eyes?

Do you believe that Jesus can save you from your sin and bring you into Heaven one day?

If so, John achieved his purpose through the Holy Spirit's direction

So, if we believe, what should that belief cause us to do?

## Personal Discipleship

### Matthew 10:37-39

“Anyone who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and **anyone who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**”

- Anyone who loves his father and mother more than Jesus
- Anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Jesus
- Anyone who does not “take up his cross” and follow Jesus

**Is not worthy of what?** -> Is not worthy of Jesus's sacrifice on the cross

What did Jesus say right before this verse in Matthew 10?

**Matthew 10:34**

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

Your commitment to Jesus will divide your life

**Matthew 10:35-36**

“For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.”

He is either the focus of your life or He is not

**How do you know if you're truly following Jesus?**

Do you truly love Jesus?

I wrote a book about that called “If You Love Me”

I offered copies of the book for Christmas, and I'll offer them again

I'll put a book in your hand for free if you promise to read it

Jesus said more about individuals that could NOT be His disciple than the ones that could

**Luke 14:27**

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

I implore you, make sure that you are a disciple of Jesus

It is the only way you will avoid a damning judgment at the end of your life

**Discipleship means leaving your comfort zone**

I mentioned this last week

I asked for people to raise their hand if they wanted prayer to leave comfort

Many of you raised your hand for prayer

**Are you willing to leave your comfort zone for Jesus?**

Carry your own cross -> be willing to give up your personal desires for His will and you will do just that

**Prayer**

**Benediction**