

RUSSELL SANDERS
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FOLLOW ME

In John chapter 21, Jesus meets the disciples at the shore of the Sea of Galilee. It is his third post-resurrection appearance to them, and perhaps the final extended discourse with them.

Peter becomes a focal point in this discourse. In verses 18 and 19 Jesus tells Peter what manner of death he will experience. Then in verses 20 and 21 Peter asked Jesus about John, "but Lord [my paraphrase] what about this man?"

In verse 22 Jesus answers, ***"If I will [choose] that he tarry [remain] til I come [again] what is that to thee? Follow thou me."***

Jesus had already previously instructed Peter in Verse 19 to ***"Follow me."*** That was even after He told Peter three times in verses 15, 16, and 17 to ***"Feed my sheep."***

Yet Peter seemed more interested in what would become of John. Perhaps Peter might have been envious or jealous of the very special relationship between John and Jesus.

However, Jesus told Peter [my paraphrase], "Don't worry about John. YOU must follow me."

This applies even to believers today. Do not focus on other believers, especially those in leadership or ministry. You must focus on your personal walk with Jesus.

Ministry leaders may fail. They might fall into sin. Do not allow that to disillusion you. Focus on your own walk.

I have heard people say of a minister, "If he fails, I could never continue as a Christian." They place such high esteem on a man or woman in ministry instead of on Jesus alone. People fail. Do not let their failure cause you to stumble in your faith.

Jesus will never fail you. Do not focus on other people. Be faithful to Jesus and focus on Jesus and His call upon your life.

"Follow thou Me" says Jesus to YOU!!