

**“You Follow Me” (John 21:18-25)**

**Verses to Remember:** 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” (John 21:21-22)!

**Notes and Scripture References:**

- Jesus tells Peter about his future death that would glorify God. In the Gospel of John, we already saw how the death of Jesus was a death of glory because it was Jesus overcoming the world and earning our salvation so that he could draw us to himself (John 12:27-32; 13:31-32).
- Jesus calls Peter to follow him again as he had done in Luke 5:9-11 (cf. John 1:40-43). Peter now knows that following Jesus means taking up his cross.

**As you keep following Jesus...****1. Look around for encouragement but not with envy.**

- We are in this race together, and it is not always easy. We need each other. We need to encourage each other, sharpen each other. But we need to make sure that when we look around, we do not do so in envy – “what about this man?”
- See Matthew 20:1-16.

**2. Embrace the special role you have been given.**

- Peter had a really important role in the early church, and his martyrdom was a testimony to his belief in Jesus. John had his purpose to – he was kept around longer to be able to write this gospel, his three epistles, and the book of Revelation. They were given different roles and faced different challenges.
- Each of our paths following Jesus is different. Embrace what he has given you.

**3. Embrace sacrifice that leads to glory**

- There is great joy in a life with the Lord, but there is always sacrifice in following him.
- As Jesus tells Peter to follow, he also tells him that it is to a place of glory. Peter comes to accept that, and to encourage other believers who would follow to embrace the same glory that comes from sacrificing for the name of Jesus. 1 Peter 4:12-6 says, “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.”