

Follow Jesus!

John 21:15-25 (page 90 in the black Bibles)

From: Don White

May 21, 2023

Main point: As in Peter's restoration, our confession of love for the Lord will be confirmed by our obedience to His calling on our lives as His followers.

Last week we looked at the process that Jesus took Peter through to restore him to his ministry position and calling. This week we will focus on the call to follow the Lord.

Love Confessed (21:15-17)

Do you love Me more than these?

Do you love Me?

Do you love Me?

Yes Lord; You know that I love You.

Yes Lord; You know that I love You.

Lord, You know all things; You know that I love you.

Restoration Completed (21:15-17)

Feed My Lambs.

Shepherd My Sheep.

Feed My sheep.

The thing to remember is that the sheep belong to Jesus.

John 10:11, 14-15, 27-29

¹¹"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep....¹⁴"I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, ¹⁵even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep....²⁷"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹"My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

Also Ezekiel 34

Peter passed on the charge of shepherding the flock of God to the elders of Christ's church.

1 Peter 5:1-4

¹Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ²shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Calling Clarified (21:18-23)

1. Peter's future death.

¹⁸"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*."

¹⁹Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God.

John 9:1-4; 11:4, 40

2. Follow Me....You follow Me.

And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me!" (v. 19)
You follow Me!" (v. 22)

Jesus will be ascending to the Father, how is Peter expected to follow Jesus?

Jesus' words & example

1 Peter 2:20-25; 3:14-18; 4:12-19; 5:8-11

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

3. Keep focused on that to which you are called. Don't worry about what God's plan is for someone else's life but focus on what God is calling you to do.

²⁰Peter, 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?"

²¹So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?" ²²Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you?"

Gospel Account Completed (21:24-25)

1. Assurance of John's faithful testimony (21:24)

²⁴This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

John 3:11-12

2. Limited account of what Jesus did (21:25)

²⁵And 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.

Application

Shepherd Jesus' sheep

Pastors/Elders/Church Leaders

Others

What does it mean for you to follow Jesus?

Obedience to His commands/words in Scripture.

2 Peter 1:19-20

Follow His example as seen in Scripture.

What specific thing(s) is the Lord calling you to obey?