

Worrying About Others John 21:20-25

²⁰ Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" ²¹ Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what *about* this man?" ²² Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me." ²³ Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you?" ²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

After Jesus and Peter had their little discussion about Peter's love, service and martyrdom, Jesus says to Peter, "Follow Me." But Peter is not satisfied with that. He turns and sees John also, naturally following Jesus. He then turns to Jesus and wants to know, "What about John."

Dodds says, "Peter was prone to intermeddle with matters beyond his sphere, and to manage other people's affairs for them. Such a disposition always betrays a lack of devotion to our own calling. To brood over the easier lot of our friend, to envy him his capacity and success, to grudge him his advantages and happiness, is to betray an injurious weakness in ourselves. To be unduly anxious about the future of any part of Christ's Church, as if He had omitted to arrange for that future, to act as if we were essential to the well-being of some part of Christ's Church, is to intermeddle like Peter. To show astonishment or entire incredulity or misunderstanding if a course in life quite different from ours is found to be quite as useful to Christ's people and to the world as ours ; to show that we have not yet apprehended how many men, how many minds, how many methods, it takes to make a world, is to incur the rebuke of Peter. Christ alone is broad as humanity and has sympathy for all. He alone can find a place in His Church for every variety of man. Dodds, Marcus; Commentary on John.

We can see from the tone of Jesus' replay that He was displeased with Peter's question.

Why is it that Peter is concerned with John or maybe thinks that John is going to come out better on this than he is?

The real problem is that Peter is so much like us.

Our own insecurities keep us looking at others in the family of God and thinking that they have it better than we do. And for the life of us we cannot figure out why.

Regardless of what we might have been taught, Peter was far from perfect. Jesus has to twice command Peter to follow Him while John is obviously following Jesus without prompting.

And now Peter wants to know about someone else's job. "What about him," Peter says.

I spent a couple of hours the other night reading in Crosby's History of the English Baptists published in 1738. In the beginning of Vol 1 Crosby relates the persecution that Wycliffe underwent until he was put to death. Over the years, thousands were put to death in England because

they did not believe the same as the state church.

God calls each of us as individuals. He deals with us as individuals.

Romans 14:1-13 (NKJV) ¹ Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things. ² For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables. ³ Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.

⁴ Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

⁵ One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ¹¹ For it is written: "*As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.*" ¹² So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. ¹³ Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in *our* brother's way.

I. Our Responsibility

A. Follow Jesus

1. This is such a simple command .
 - a. Since we were children we have known how to play follow the leader.
2. But it is also such a deep command.
 - a. We are to follow Him in His actions.
 - b. Matt 16:24-27 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. NKJV

- c. We are to follow His mind.
- d. Phil 2:5-9 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. NKJV

3. The account in the bulletin of Kazim of what it cost him to follow Jesus. In America our decision is not will we go to prison for Jesus but if we will give up another Sunday morning to go to worship.

- a. Is it because we have not heard the call, Follow Me?
- b. Is it because we do not know what that means, Follow Me?
- c. Or is it because our eyes are dull and our spiritual hearing is almost gone that we cannot hear, Follow Me?
- d. Or is it because we are looking for MDRs of Christianity. (Minimum Daily Requirements)

B. Support others.

1. Gal 6:1-5 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For each one shall bear his own load. NKJV

- a. Sometimes in the animal kingdom the strong attack the weak.
- b. I remember when I was a kid watching the chickens pick at one that had been injured and only injure it further.
- c. We are not to pick at one another, but support one another.
- d. But as every physician knows, you have to heal before we can simply support.
- e. Have you ever tried to take a splinter out of a child's hand?
- f. But you know that it must come out before healing can begin.
- g. To support someone does not mean that you ignore their self-destructive behavior.

h. You support them and work with them to free them from the power of Satan in their life.

2. So I am not saying, “mind your own business and let the weak ruin themselves because they should Know Better.”

II. But we are not to interfere with another’s service to Jesus.

A. 1 Cor 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. NKJV

1. The context of this: 1 Cor 4:1-4 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.⁴ For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. NKJV

2. It is hard for us not to “pick” at others for it makes us look better, in our own eyes anyway, when we tear another person down.

The book ends with Peter and John together following Jesus, and He led them right into the Book of Acts! What an exciting thing it was to receive the power of the Spirit and to bear witness of Jesus Christ! Had they not trusted Him, been transformed by Him, and followed Him, they would have remained successful fishermen on the Sea of Galilee; and the world would never have heard of them.

Bible Exposition Commentary - Bible Exposition Commentary – Be Transformed (John 13-21).

But Peter's death would not be a tragedy; it would glorify God! The death of Lazarus glorified God (John 11:4, 40) and so did the death of Jesus (John 12:23ff). Paul's great concern was that he glorify God, whether by life or by death (Phil. 1:20-21). This should be our desire as well.

Bible Exposition Commentary - Bible Exposition Commentary – Be Transformed (John 13-21).

Those who were not satisfied with His testimony to Himself Jesus refers to His works, especially to His miracles, as being a testimony borne to Him by the Father. "The works," He says, in ch. v. 36, "which the Father hath given Me to finish, the same works that I do bear witness of Me, that the Father hath sent Me." So also He appeals to the works in ch. x. 25, 37, 38 :• "The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.—If I do not the works of My Father, believe

Me not. But if I do, though ye believe not Me, believe the works : that ye may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." Similar references to the works are found in ch. viii. 18, xiv. 11. According to ch. xv. 24, it was the works that made the Jews inexcusable, and proved that in hating Jesus they hated the Father. In ch. xi. 15, He rejoices that Lazarus had died before His arrival, because He thus had opportunity, by the performance of a glorious work—the raising one a considerable time dead—to strengthen the faith of His disciples. According to ver. 42, He formally utters the petition for the raising of Lazarus, that the connection of the work with His own person might be set in full light, and that thus faith in His Divine mission might be wrought in the hearts of those who were present.—The Apostle often points to the deep impression

which the works of Jesus produced upon the men of his day and all eye-witnesses. Nicodemus says to Jesus, ch. iii. 2, "We know that Thou art a teacher come from God ; for no man can do the miracles that Thou doest, except God be with him." According to ch. ii. 23, many in Jerusalem believed in His name when they saw the miracles that He did.

According to ch. iv. 45, when Jesus came to Galilee the Galileans received Him, because they had seen all that He had done in Jerusalem at the feast. In ch. vii. 31 we read : "And many of the people believed on Him, and said, When Christ cometh, will He do more miracles than those which this man hath done ?" What significance the Apostle attached to the works of Christ, is shown by the narrative of the man born blind. Everything is ordered in true apologetic style, with the design to obviate all hostile attack. The same holds good of the narrative of Lazarus' resurrection. Hengstenberg on John's Gospel