

Our last message in John, friends! In **Jn. 21**, we are looking at one of Jesus' appearances to His followers. Remember Jesus' multiple appearances: to the women (**Mt. 28:9,10**); to Mary Magdalene (**Mk. 16:9-11; Jn. 20:11-18**); to Cleopas and his companion (**Lk. 24:13-35**); to Simon Peter (**Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5**); to the disciples except Thomas (**Jn. 20:19-23**); to the disciples with Thomas being present (**Jn. 20:24-29**). All of these occurred in Jerusalem. Jesus also appeared to the seven at the Sea of Tiberias (**21:1-23**). That's the one we're looking at in this study. Other appearances include to the disciples on a mountain in Galilee (**Mt. 28:16-20**). To five hundred at one time (**1 Cor. 15:6**). To James, the Lord's brother (**1 Cor. 15:7**). To the eleven on Olivet, near Jerusalem (**Acts 1:4-11; Lk. 24:50-51**). To Paul, when he was on his way to Damascus (**Acts 9:3-7; 22:6-10; 26:12-18; 1 Cor. 9:1; 15:8**). It is the Lord Jesus Himself in person who manifested Himself. We don't know what Jesus talked about with Peter when He first appeared to him; it surely included forgiveness. Now Jesus continues His words to Peter beside the Sea of Galilee.

Read :1-25. :18 "Truly, truly, I say to you [I tell you the truth], when you were younger, you used to gird [described as "to pull the belt to remove slack so a person can move quickly"] 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." As we've seen throughout this book, "**Truly, truly**" indicates "Listen carefully. This is extremely important!" "When younger (maybe even before beginning to follow Jesus), you used to 'tighten the belt' and you went where you wished. But when you grow old (30-35 years later), you will stretch out your hands, (implying crucifixion), and someone else will gird and bring you where you don't wish to go." Someone else (most likely under Nero's direction) would seize Peter, bind him, and lead him away to execution. Early writers (like Eusebias) tell us that in Peter's old age, he was tied to a cross & had his hands stretched out. According to tradition Peter was crucified, but requested to be crucified upside down because he felt unworthy to be crucified like his Lord.

So Peter spent more than 30 years serving his Lord and anticipating his own martyrdom. He seemed to have preached in Jerusalem and in Rome, Pontus, Galatia, Bithynia, Cappadocia, and Asia, to Jews who had been dispersed.

:19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he [Peter] would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me!" Jesus told him how he would die, and that even his death would glorify God, just as Jesus manifested His Father's and His own glory in His death (**12:27-28, 13:31-32, 17:1-5**). "**Follow Me!**" Jesus had earlier said (**12:26**) "**If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me.**" Literally, "Keep on following Me." This is a key issue in every Christian's life. Glorifying God and following Jesus means going the way of the cross, denying self, thus displaying God's essence.

Read :20-25. :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?" :21 So Peter

seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?" Peter looked over at John and asked, "What about him?" **:22 Jesus said [replied] to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you [Peter]? You follow Me!"** If John lived until Jesus' second coming, it was none of Peter's concern. Swindoll "When it comes to the matter of doing God's will, God has not said that you must answer for anyone else except yourself. Quit looking around for equality! Stop concerning yourself with your need for others to do what you are doing or endure what you have been called to endure. God chooses the roles we play, and each part is unique." In other words, what was going to happen to John was none of Peter's business! The Lord has a plan for each of His followers, and those plans aren't always the same! God's plans vary for Christians as a local church and for Christians individually. And often His reasons are not made known. "Personal obedience is an individual matter and the message is: Don't compare! There's no advantage to comparisons, finding our identity in our pre-Christian roots, or embracing our failure." We need to let Jesus reshape our failures into a new identity based in who He says we are: His slaves, His friends, His brethren, His saints. To everyone has been given gifts of the Spirit and a heart for ministry, and they define our ministry! "That did not make Peter and John rivals in honor and prestige, nor make the one greater or less than the other; it just made them both servants of Jesus."

Jesus' call to each of us is to follow Him. "Focus on Me. I'll use you as I choose. I'll give you a spiritual gift-mix and a heart for a certain ministry. I'll even take care of the results (**1 Cor. 12:4-6**)." Peter would have a heart for the Jews, although he'd also be the one who opened the door to preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles (**Acts 10:28,34-43**). And from here on Peter did not back down. He and his fellow apostles turned the world upside down (**Acts 17:6**). As far as we know, almost every apostle died as a martyr for the love of Jesus and the truth of the gospel. It's so easy to ask why our life is not like this other person's life. But Jesus' resounding call keeps coming back: "Follow Me!" This is what it means to find freedom.

:23 Therefore this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him [But that isn't what Jesus said at all] that he would not die, but only, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?" "What was secondary was made by some the main thing, and misinterpreted besides!"

:24 This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things [All the above was written by an eye-witness], and we know (3609a, recognize) that his testimony is true [reliable]. John the apostle was an eyewitness to the events recorded in this gospel. **These things** most likely refers to his entire Gospel plus **1-3 John and the Revelation. (1 Jn. 1:1). We know**, maybe just John using "we" to refer to himself or maybe to all his fellow apostles. It's true! We know that 'true' is his testimony!

Read :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. John had chosen his material in keeping with his stated purpose of presenting Jesus as the Jewish Messiah and Son of God (**20:30-31**). Although selective, the truth revealed in John's gospel is sufficient to bring anyone to faith in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah and Son of God (**14:26; 16:13**). Our historical knowledge of Jesus is at best partial, but we have been given all we need to know, even if we only knew John's Gospel.

"We must not look for competency in our roots, survey our failure, or compare ourselves to others. Rather, we must allow Him to minister to us and respond by following Him. Let us go forth to proclaim this word (Jesus and the Bible) and fulfill our gifts in the ministry God has given us." Remember that Jesus in His humanity was the visible and audible expression of the mind/thoughts of the God-head. The Bible is the written expression of the mind/thoughts of the God-head.

God is with us every step of the way. He meets us where we are, and, as we step out in faith, He uses us in ways that are beyond our comprehension. "He's given us everything we need—Himself, the power of the Holy Spirit, the beauty of His word to instruct us, the glorious community of faith to love and encourage us."

Let's take some time to think about how we're gifted and what we have a heart for. Let's also thank our Lord for placing us where we are and that we can keep our eyes fixed on Him. Write down a couple of lessons and applications you personally made to Jesus and this Gospel. My love to each of you, Joel

Together let's observe the Lord's Supper. Let's **read Luke 22:14-20** and **1 Corinthians 11:23-32**. The bread is the symbol of Jesus' body, given for us. The juice is the symbol of Jesus' blood, shed for us.

Our last message in John, friends! In **Jn. 21**, we are looking at one of Jesus' appearances to His followers. Remember Jesus' multiple appearances: to the women (**Mt. 28:9,10**); to Mary Magdalene (**Mk. 16:9-11; Jn. 20:11-18**); to Cleopas and his companion (**Lk. 24:13-35**); to Simon Peter (**Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5**); to the disciples except Thomas (**Jn. 20:19-23**); to the disciples with Thomas being present (**Jn. 20:24-29**). All of these occurred in Jerusalem. Jesus also appeared to the seven at the Sea of Tiberias (**21:1-23**). That's the one we're looking at in this study. Other appearances include to the disciples on a mountain in Galilee (**Mt. 28:16-20**). To five hundred at one time (**1 Cor. 15:6**). To James, the Lord's brother (**1 Cor. 15:7**). To the eleven on Olivet, near Jerusalem (**Acts 1:4-11; Lk. 24:50-51**). To Paul, when he was on his way to Damascus (**Acts 9:3-7; 22:6-10; 26:12-18; 1 Cor. 9:1; 15:8**). It is the Lord Jesus Himself in person who manifested Himself. We don't know what Jesus talked about with Peter when He first appeared to him; it surely included forgiveness. Now Jesus continues His words to Peter beside the Sea of Galilee.

Read :1-25. :18 “Truly, truly, I say to you [I tell you the truth], when you were younger, you used to gird [described as “to pull the belt to remove slack so a person can move quickly”] 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.” As we've seen throughout this book, “**Truly, truly**” indicates “Listen carefully. This is extremely important!” “When younger (maybe even before beginning to follow Jesus), you used to ‘tighten the belt’ and you went where you wished. But when you grow old (30-35 years later), you will stretch out your hands, (implying crucifixion), and someone else will gird and bring you where you don't wish to go.” Someone else (most likely under Nero's direction) would seize Peter, bind him, and lead him away to execution. Early writers (like Eusebias) tell us that in Peter's old age, he was tied to a cross & had his hands stretched out. According to tradition Peter was crucified, but requested to be crucified upside down because he felt unworthy to be crucified like his Lord.

So Peter spent more than 30 years serving his Lord and anticipating his own martyrdom. He seemed to have preached in Jerusalem and in Rome, Pontus, Galatia, Bithynia, Cappadocia, and Asia, to Jews who had been dispersed.

:19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he [Peter] would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me!” Jesus told him how he would die, and that even his death would glorify God, just as Jesus manifested His Father's and His own glory in His death (**12:27-28, 13:31-32, 17:1-5**). “**Follow Me!**” Jesus had earlier said (**12:26**) “**If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me.**” Literally, “Keep on following Me.” This is a key issue in every Christian's life. Glorifying God and following Jesus means going the way of the cross, denying self, thus displaying God's essence.

Read :20-25. :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?” :21 So Peter

seeing him said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?” Peter looked over at John and asked, “What about him?” :22 **Jesus said [replied] to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you [Peter]? You follow Me!”** If John lived until Jesus’ second coming, it was none of Peter’s concern. Swindoll “When it comes to the matter of doing God’s will, God has not said that you must answer for anyone else except yourself. Quit looking around for equality! Stop concerning yourself with your need for others to do what you are doing or endure what you have been called to endure. God chooses the roles we play, and each part is unique.” In other words, what was going to happen to John was none of Peter’s business! The Lord has a plan for each of His followers, and those plans aren’t always the same! God’s plans vary for Christians as a local church and for Christians individually. And often His reasons are not made known. “Personal obedience is an individual matter and the message is: Don’t compare! There’s no advantage to comparisons, finding our identity in our pre-Christian roots, or embracing our failure.” We need to let Jesus reshape our failures into a new identity based in who He says we are: His slaves, His friends, His brethren, His saints. To everyone has been given gifts of the Spirit and a heart for ministry, and they define our ministry! “That did not make Peter and John rivals in honor and prestige, nor make the one greater or less than the other; it just made them both servants of Jesus.”

Jesus’ call to each of us is to follow Him. “Focus on Me. I’ll use you as I choose. I’ll give you a spiritual gift-mix and a heart for a certain ministry. I’ll even take care of the results (**1 Cor. 12:4-6**.)” Peter would have a heart for the Jews, although he’d also be the one who opened the door to preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles (**Acts 10:28,34-43**). And from here on Peter did not back down. He and his fellow apostles turned the world upside down (**Acts 17:6**). As far as we know, almost every apostle died as a martyr for the love of Jesus and the truth of the gospel. It’s so easy to ask why our life is not like this other person’s life. But Jesus’ resounding call keeps coming back: “Follow Me!” This is what it means to find freedom.

:23 **Therefore this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him** [But that isn’t what Jesus said at all] **that he would not die, but only, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?”** “What was secondary was made by some the main thing, and misinterpreted besides!”

:24 **This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things** [All the above was written by an eye-witness], **and we know (3609a, recognize) that his testimony is true** [reliable]. John the apostle was an eyewitness to the events recorded in this gospel. **These things** most likely refers to his entire Gospel plus **1-3 John and the Revelation. (1 Jn. 1:1)**. **We know**, maybe just John using “we” to refer to himself or maybe to all his fellow apostles. It’s true! We know that ‘true’ is his testimony!

Read :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. John had chosen his material in keeping with his stated purpose of presenting Jesus as the Jewish Messiah and Son of God (**20:30-31**). Although selective, the truth revealed in John's gospel is sufficient to bring anyone to faith in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah and Son of God (**14:26; 16:13**). Our historical knowledge of Jesus is at best partial, but we have been given all we need to know, even if we only knew John's Gospel.

"We must not look for competency in our roots, survey our failure, or compare ourselves to others. Rather, we must allow Him to minister to us and respond by following Him. Let us go forth to proclaim this word (Jesus and the Bible) and fulfill our gifts in the ministry God has given us." Remember that Jesus in His humanity was the visible and audible expression of the mind/thoughts of the God-head. The Bible is the written expression of the mind/thoughts of the God-head.

God is with us every step of the way. He meets us where we are, and, as we step out in faith, He uses us in ways that are beyond our comprehension. "He's given us everything we need—Himself, the power of the Holy Spirit, the beauty of His word to instruct us, the glorious community of faith to love and encourage us."

Let's take some time to think about how we're gifted and what we have a heart for. Let's also thank our Lord for placing us where we are and that we can keep our eyes fixed on Him. Write down a couple of lessons and applications you personally made to Jesus and this Gospel. My love to each of you, Joel

Together let's observe the Lord's Supper. Let's **read Luke 22:14-20** and **1 Corinthians 11:23-32**. The bread is the symbol of Jesus' body, given for us. The juice is the symbol of Jesus' blood, shed for us.

:18 1 Clement 5:4; 6:1; Eusebius the Ecclesiastical History 2. 25.

Read :15-19. :15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to [asked] Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love (agapaō) Me more than these?” He said [replied] to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love (phileō) You.” He said to him, “Tend My lambs.”

:16 He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love (agapaō) Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love (phileō) you.” He said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.”

:17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love (phileō) Me?” Peter was grieved [deeply hurt] because He said to him the third time, “Do You love (phileō) Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (phileō) You.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

:18 Truly, truly [I tell you the truth], 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.”

:19 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!”

Read :20-23.

:20 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?”

:21 So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?”

:22 Jesus said [replied] to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!”

:23 Therefore this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him [But that isn’t what Jesus said at all] that he would not die, but only, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?”

Read :24. This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things [All the above was written by an eye-witness], and we know that his testimony is true [reliable].

Read :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.

NLT 15 After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. 16 Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. 17 A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a

third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep. 18 "I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." 19 Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow me." 20 Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved--the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, "Lord, who will betray you?" 21 Peter asked Jesus, "What about him, Lord?" 22 Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me." 23 So the rumor spread among the community of believers that this disciple wouldn't die. But that isn't what Jesus said at all. He only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?" 24 This disciple is the one who testifies to these events and has recorded them here. And we know that his account of these things is accurate. 25 Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.

JBP When they had finished breakfast Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others?” “Yes, Lord,” he replied, “you know that I am your friend.” 16 “Then feed my lambs,” returned Jesus. Then he said for the second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” returned Peter. “You know that I am your friend.” 17 “Then care for my sheep,” replied Jesus. Then for the third time, Jesus spoke to him and said, “Simon, son of John, are you my friend?” Peter was deeply hurt because Jesus’ third question to him was “Are you my friend?”, and he said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I am your friend!” 18 “Then feed my sheep,” Jesus said to him. “I tell you truly, Peter, that when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you liked, but when you are an old man, you are going to stretch out your hands and someone else will dress you and take you where you do not want to go.” 19 (He said this to show the kind of death—by crucifixion—by which Peter was going to honor God.) Then Jesus said to him, “You must follow me.” 20 Then Peter turned round and noticed the disciple whom Jesus loved following behind them. (He was the one who had his head on Jesus’ shoulder at supper and had asked, “Lord, who is the one who is going to betray you?”) So he said, “Yes, Lord, but what about him?” 22 “If it is my wish,” returned Jesus, “for him to stay until I come, is that your business, Peter? You must follow me.” 23 This gave rise to the saying among the brothers that this disciple would not die. Yet, of course, Jesus did not say, “He will not die,” but simply, “If it is my wish for him to stay until I come, is that your business?” 24 Now it is this same disciple who is hereby giving his testimony to these things and has written them down. We know that his witness is reliable. Of course, there are many other things which Jesus did, and I suppose that if each one were written down in detail, there would not be room in the whole world for all the books that would have to be written.