

You Follow Me

“When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, what about this man?’ Jesus said to him, ‘If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!’” John 21:21-22.

After Jesus's ascension, Jesus and the disciples ate breakfast. After they finished, Jesus told Peter three times to feed His sheep, then Jesus told Peter what manner of way he would die and then said, “Follow Me.” After Jesus said this, Peter looked to the apostle John and asked, “What about this man?” to which Jesus's response was, in modern vernacular: “What about him?” It wasn't enough for Peter to hear from Jesus these commands, such as to feed His sheep. Peter wanted more than Jesus's instruction for Peter. He wanted Jesus's instruction for John, too. Maybe Jesus was being unfair by giving Peter a heavier burden than John? Maybe Jesus was favoring Peter by giving him this responsibility? How could Peter know except to know God's will for John? So Peter asked, “What about this man?” And Jesus told Peter, “You follow Me.”

The impetuosity of Peter can teach us many great lessons today. One of which is to keep our eyes on ourselves. It's very easy to get wrapped up in what God has done for or said about other people. The real question we should be asking is this: What has God said to me? Am I doing what God has asked of me? Jesus's response to Peter is the same one we should be telling ourselves: Follow Him.

Did God will for your neighbor to have a family like the one you've always wanted? It doesn't matter what God has willed for them. You follow Him. Did God will for someone else at work to get a raise besides you? What is that to you? You follow Him. Did God will for you not to get into a school you wanted? Or maybe you got less of a tax refund than someone who doesn't work as hard as you? Or maybe you want to know what's going on in another person's life so you can compare what God has willed for you with what God has willed for them? Are you concerned with God favoring you over another person? What are any of these to us? We must not focus on what God is doing for and through other people. Instead we must focus on following Him as He's asked us to follow Him. **[DJR]**