

# **John's Gospel @ CF...**

**John 21:18-25**

**Sermon notes – BK**

**May 10, 2026**

## **This is our LAST week in John.**

**Honestly, I am bummed.**

**That said, there have been many deposits**

**It all started with...**

***John 1:1-2, 14***

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.***

***<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.***

**In John's Gospel, we saw ...**

- Jesus proclaimed as God the Son right out of the gate**
- John reinforces this with the Seven "I AM" statements**
- John describing how Jesus demonstrated who He is as God the Son, with Seven "Signs" – miracles**
- Contrasts of light and darkness**
- Glory and the Cross**

**John records all of this that we might "believe" –**

**Believe - a word John used in different forms (“ed” – “ing”) 84 times in the ESV.**

**We covered the key verse in John...**

***John 20:31***

***“...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”***

**That we might believe...**

**That we might believe.**

**We come to these last recorded moments in John’s gospel... that we might believe.**

- **These last verses of John are so personal.**
- **Because these words are so personal, they had to be seen... in person. This Gospel is credible, because the witness is credible.**

**Last week, we saw Jesus restoring Simon Peter back to the place of mission and leadership that Jesus had called of him.**

***“Simon, son of John...”***

**Jesus brings it back to the beginning with Peter.**

**Restoring him and reestablishing his place and his role.**

**Jesus does this in front of the other disciples, (in my opinion) to let them know He did not change His mind about Peter, even with his mistakes.**

**Jesus assures Simon Peter, he will finish well...**

- **Jesus restores Simon Peter with the directive to feed and to tend to (Shepherd) the sheep**
- **Jesus restores, re-sets, and reminds Peter who he is and who he is called to be...**
- **Then Jesus says to Simon Peter...**

**As we conclude John's epilogue, I thought it would be important to go back a couple of verses to see the set up...**

**This was just one conversation, after all!**

***John 21:18-21***

***<sup>18</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” <sup>19</sup> (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”***

***<sup>20</sup> Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” <sup>21</sup> When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?”***

Jesus tells Peter, he will be martyred... Peter will die for his faith...

***John 21:19a***

***<sup>19</sup> (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.)***

It seems Peter got it...

...BUT then He turned and saw John, and asked about him.

John still does not name himself, but clearly refers to himself here, in an **obvious**, but **subtle** way...

John is referring to what **we covered this in John 13 almost a year ago**, if you can believe it... It was on **Sunday, June 1 of last year...**

**Jesus predicts he was going to be betrayed** and **Simon Peter motioned to John to ask Jesus who it would be...** (13:24)...

Jesus sets Peter's path ahead clearly –

- A path undistracted
  - A path to be obeyed
  - A mission to be accomplished... unto death
- 
- Maybe for a moment, Peter got caught in his head...
  - Maybe Peter got too far ahead of himself, trying to plan already for the future... to his death...

**Peter asks...**

***“Lord, what about this man?”***

**It is an understandable question, *don't you think?***

**John was one of “*the three*” – Peter, James and John...**

**John at this point was not far behind them...**

**Not that there is a rivalry, or competition... could it be that it was a simple question of...**

***“You told me about my future... what about his?”***

**Have you ever tried running, and then look behind you?**

**It does not work very well.**

**I still remember being a running back in little league football and our coach telling us to keep your eyes on the goal line... What happens?**



**OR...**

**When you are riding a bike, or driving your car, and you look over your shoulder...**



**We can understand what Jesus is getting at here with Simon Peter...**

**Jesus makes this abundantly clear...**

***22 Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!”***

**I cannot tell you how many times the Holy Spirit has reminded me of this conversation Peter had with Jesus.**

**Any of you ever struggle with comparison?**

**Growing up –**

- Height
- Looks
- Grades
- Abilities and talents

**What college or university or job...**

**Comparison is a killer...**

## **There is no place more real than this than as a mother...**

- With **how your kids stack up** to other kids
- With how you **keep up with, or compare to...**

**This can – has – or will – lock you down as a mom, if you get caught, or live in the world of comparison...**

### **Please moms...**

- **You have been entrusted with the kids you have** (whatever the age) to love, care for, encourage, direct and be there for
- **They have been uniquely gifted** and for them to *fit in anyone else's mold (comparison) will not do!*
- **Pray, love them, speak truth to them, pray...!**

## **HOW do you do that?!**

**Follow Jesus.**

**He will –**

- **Lead**
- **Direct**
- **Empower....**  
**...YOU!**

**"How many of you are here today because of a praying mom?"**

**THIS is what we see here that is so important to the text in John 21...**

**Let's get into this a bit, there is something that can be lost that is important for us to pause on...**

**Jesus tells Simon Peter two times to follow Him...**

***John 21:19***

***(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."***

**And we see it again here...**

***John 21:22***

***<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"***

***Jesus is literally saying, "What happens with John is none of your business..."***

**Jesus' time is short, and He is getting right to the point.**

- There is no time to compare
- This is no debate on the terms of service

***"You follow me..."***

**It is easy to read these two commands Jesus gives and think Jesus is just repeating Himself...**

**This is not the case.**

**Yes, in both instances, there is the same command**

**Yes, they are both in the imperative, “*You MUST do this!*”**

**BUT... it is interesting that the second time Jesus gives the command... after Peter asks about John...**

**Jesus literally says... “You, ME follow...”**

**It is still translated, “you follow me...”**

**But the word order in the Greek is shifted for emphasis...**

**SO, there is a repeated imperative, but in our language today, it is like Jesus is saying,**

**“Peter, look at Me... FOLLOW ME.”**

- **Don’t follow John**
- **Don’t follow the latest trends**
- **Don’t follow the financial support**
- **Don’t be distracted... Follow ME!**

**Yes, it is important to be aware of what is around us**

**Yes, it is imperative that we love and support one another**

**THAT SAID... Jesus is the only one we are to follow.**

**THIS is where people can get all messed up.**

**Church Leaders will fail**

**Parents will fail**

Government leaders will fail  
**Jesus will NEVER fail!**

**Jesus is perfect, pure, and present.**

**This is such an important pause... especially here  
right now at Central Faith...**

**As a church, you will be processing new  
leadership, new styles, new thoughts and  
ideas...**

**Keep your eyes on Jesus!**

- **It begins with following Jesus**
- **It continues with following Jesus**
- **It ends with following Jesus**

**So...**

**if there is anything we need to be focusing on... more than  
anything else in our lives... it is following Jesus.**

**Following Jesus, as seen in the Gospels...**

- **What does He teach?**
- **What is important to Him?**
- **Where is His focus?**

**How do you know you are following Jesus?**

(There is a lot more to this than we can cover today... but quick thoughts)...

- How much are you depending on God?
- How much priority do you give to your relationship with Jesus in prayer, study, seeking His face?
- What is the state of your heart? Is there peace, trust, belief in Jesus and His leading in your life?
- What is life like around you, that is – what is the fruit from your life showing about you?

John adds this in, remember this is some 60 years later possibly...

***John 21:23***

***<sup>23</sup> So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”***

At the writing of this letter, Peter had been martyred.

John was still alive (obviously)

Johns seems to be clearing the air... I am guessing this is not the first time he has had to do so, yet here he still is!

It is also a way for John to tie into the closing last words of this amazing Gospel...

***John 21:24***

***24 This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.***

### **John writes a true account**

- Eyewitness, first-hand account
- Too many details for this to be an imposter
  - Many imposters were writing at this point
  - People already circulating around false accounts

**THIS is the READ DEAL...**

**John adds in here –**

***“...and we know that his testimony is true.”***

**Similar to –**

***John 1:14***

***And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.***

**The “we” in both is the testimony of those who saw and experienced this first-hand and recorded by John.**

**“Paul might be the pioneer of Christ, Peter might be the shepherd of Christ, but John was the witness of Christ.”  
(Barclay)**

***John 21:25***

***25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.***

**Does this seem a bit overstated?**

**I am thinking, if you were an eyewitness, you would say, “No way!”**

**Besides that...**

**John makes it clear, Jesus has been working since, *“...In the beginning.”***

**Like... the VERY beginning...**

**And... Jesus will continue to be working until He returns... and on to eternity...**

**So... no, this is not an overstatement... not at all...**

**Jesus is still working today...**

**Jesus is saying to us all this morning, as He spoke to Peter...**

***“You, look at Me... FOLLOW ME.”***

- ***Don't follow anyone else...***
- ***Don't follow the latest trends...***

- **Don't follow the money**
- **Don't be distracted... Follow ME!**

**WHY?...**

**That we may believe...**

**Yes – this is for ALL who call on His name...**