

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made (Psalm 139:14) **John 21:20-25**

John and Peter are both faithful followers of Jesus whose futures will take very different paths.

Peter

- Will be a shepherd.
- He will follow in the example of Jesus, glorifying God through death as a martyr.

John (the beloved disciple)

- Serves by following Jesus throughout a long life.
- Is trustworthy and testifies to these things (through writing them down)

- We each have a part to play.
- We each have unique story.
- We are tempted to compare, wish, and live in the land of “what if’s” and “why me”.
- Jesus leads us where he wants us to go, not where he wants your brother or sister to go.

vs. 22, If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?

vs. 23, Will John be the one original disciple still alive until the Lord returned?

Notice: This isn’t what Jesus said.

Peter didn’t need to concern himself with John’s future.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13 Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction. **11** For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters, by members of Chloe’s people, that there is rivalry among you. **12** What I am saying is this: One of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” **13** Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in Paul’s name?

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge another’s household servant? Before his own Lord he stands or falls. And he will stand, because the Lord is able to make him stand.

Eschatological coming -> **1 John 2:28** So now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears we may have confidence and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

5:28-29 Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear his voice **29** and come out—those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation.

6:39 This is the will of him who sent me: that I should lose none of those he has given me but should raise them up on the last day.

vs. 24-25, Recognizing his age and impending death.

What John has included will move the reader to a deeper faith!

John is a reliable witness. He has spoken the truth concerning Jesus.

- There is no way the world can handle the enormity, depth, mystery, and totality of everything that Jesus is and all that he has done!
- Changed lives (our flesh) as a result of the giving of the Spirit and the life received through believing in Jesus has the ability to impact in a much greater capacity than any book.
- Everyone who loves Jesus is on the narrow path although their journeys are unique.
- We are people of faith, hope, and love. Be courageous I have conquered the world (16:33).

Review

Who is Jesus?

7 Titles

The Lamb of God
Rabbi
The Son of Man
King of Israel.

The Son of God
Messiah
Jesus from Nazareth

Through the lens of the Jewish Festivals

Sabbath -> The Father is working and so am I, 5:17

Passover -> I am the bread of life, 6:35

Tabernacles -> Water and Light (Come to me and drink, 7:37 / The light of the world, 8:12

Hanukkah -> I and the Father are one, 10:30

7 'I Am' statements

I am the bread of life (6:35).

I am the light of the world (8:12).

I am the gate for the sheep (10:7).

I am the good shepherd (10:11).

I am the resurrection and the life (11:25).

I am the way, the truth, and the life (14:6).

I am the true vine (15:1)

7 Signs -> Final is the resurrection of Jesus.

1. Turning water into wine (2:1-12).
2. Healing of the official's son (4:46-54)
3. Healing of the man who was unable to walk because of a disability (5:1-15).
4. Feeding the five thousand (6:1-15)
5. Jesus walking on the sea (6:16-21)
6. Healing of the man born blind (9:1-34)
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead (11:43)

Ultimately leading to Jesus' resurrection. The beginning of new creation!

I AM! -> Jesus is the one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side (1:18).

4:26 Jesus told her, "I, the one speaking to you, am he."

6:20 But he said to them, "It is I. Don't be afraid."

8:24, 28, 58 Therefore I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I am he, you will die in your sins." **28** So Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own. But just as the Father taught me, I say these things. **58** Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."

13:19 I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am he.

18:4-5 "Who is it that you're seeking?" **5** "Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "I am he," Jesus told them.

Emphasis

Realized eschatology - blessings normally thought to be realized only in the future can be experienced in the present. This reality is inaugurated by Jesus' presence and glorification, then realized and anticipated in believers' experience through the Spirit.

The glorious gift of the indwelling Spirit - We are given the ability to share the good news of forgiveness, in a posture of peace, in God's name and by his Spirit, to all who believe in Jesus.

We too are given the humble task to warn the world that sin is serious and that if not dealt with it leads to death. (How is the darkness exposed?)

Life / Salvation - Life of the kingdom is available to those living in the present through faith in Christ.

To have **eternal life** is to *know* God, to be in *relationship* with him and to *experience* all the goodness of that relationship both in the *present age* and the *age to come*.

Peace & Joy

Love - a call to church unity. The Father loves the Son. The Son loves the Father. The Father loves believers. The Son loves Believers. Believers love Jesus. Believers love God. Believers love one another.

Chapter 13 - Self giving love (13:34)

Faith - belief is a proper response to God's revelation, embracing His truth. John's usage is designed to express the personal relationship of commitment between the believer and Jesus. It naturally moves us to be a witness.

Belief - the whole narrative highlights the process and uniqueness of belief.

The World - when John uses κόσμος he is referring to the nations or "all people". The world represents the public. It is in darkness, it is vulnerable to the enemy (demonic power), it is separated from God, and is morally opposed to Jesus and the people of light. Yet, it is the object of God's saving love (3:16).

NT Wright refers to a well known saying, "John is like a pool that's safe for a child to paddle in but deep enough for an elephant to swim in."