

I. Introduction: After Peter affirmed his love for Jesus three times, Jesus commanded Peter to follow Him even though He knew that doing so would lead to his death.

II. You Follow Me! (John 21:18-25)

A. Following Involves Suffering (vv. 18-19).

1. Jesus tested Peter to see if he truly loved Him. He predicted that Peter would be crucified later in life, but He commanded Peter to follow Him anyway.

B. Following Involves Focusing (vv. 20-23).

1. Peter believed that what he was about to endure was not fair. Peter wanted to know what would happen to John since Jesus had predicted his martyrdom.

C. Following Involves Believing (vv. 24-25).

1. John testified that everything he wrote about Jesus was factually accurate and that there was even more that he could have written about his savior.

III. Conclusion: Jesus predicted that Peter would be crucified for following Him, but He also indicated that he would be faithful to Him to the end.

Study Questions: You Follow Me!

1. Who are you following? A pastor? A sports hero? A famous writer? A successful relative? A political figure? An influential thinker? A celebrity? A trendsetter? Why do you follow them?
2. What did Jesus say would happen to Peter when he was older? (**John 21:18-19**) What does it mean to “stretch out” one’s hands? (**v. 18**) How do we know this meant crucifixion? (**v. 19**)
3. How would you react if you heard you were going to be martyred? (**John 21:18-19**) How would Peter’s death glorify God? (**v. 19**) What command did Jesus give to Peter? (**v. 19**)
4. Why do you think Peter asked about John’s future? (**John 21:20-23**) Did Peter ask this because he cared about John? Did he ask this because he didn’t believe his fate was fair?
5. What did Jesus’ response to Peter indicate about his question? (**John 21:20-23**) How is every Christian’s destiny unique? What command did Jesus repeat to Peter? (**v. 22**)
6. Why did John conclude his Gospel with a statement about the truth of his testimony? (**John 21:24-25**) How did Jesus’ prediction fit into the overall theme of John? (**John 20:30-31**)
7. Why did some believe John would remain alive until Jesus returned? (**John 20:23**) What were Jesus’ last words in John’s Gospel? (**v. 22**) What does it mean to follow Jesus?
8. How are you to follow Jesus in this world? (**John 21:19, 22**) In what unique way(s) has God called you to minister? Serve other believers? Evangelize the lost? Provide hospitality?

Prayer

1. Pray that God would help you to follow Him in the way that He has called you specifically.
2. Ask God to help you enable other Christians to fulfill their God-given calling.