

### **John 21:20 - 22 (KJV)**

<sup>20</sup>Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

<sup>21</sup>Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

<sup>22</sup>Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

- Though fully restored, the old Simon still remained. Christ had told him to “follow,” not look around.
- Peter seems more concerned about events than duties!

“Follow me” is also His word to us today!

To “follow” Christ means to “deny self” and “take up the cross.”

In other words, it means to be “conformed to his death.”

Earlier in John Jesus said to Peter:

“Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards” (**John 13:36**).

Jesus’ words, “Follow Me!” = “Keep on following Me.”

However, for a moment Peter took his eyes off the Lord Jesus, a mistake he had made at least two other times.

1. After that first great catch of fish, Peter took his eyes off his Lord and looked at himself. “Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” (**Luke 5:8**)
2. When he was walking on the stormy sea with Jesus, Peter looked away from the Lord and began to look at the wind and waves; and immediately he began to sink (**Matt. 14:30**). It is dangerous to look at the circumstances instead of looking to the Lord.

Beware when you get your eyes off the Lord and start to look at other Christians!

- “Looking unto Jesus” should be the aim and practice of every believer (**Heb. 12:1-2**).
- To be distracted by ourselves, our circumstances, or by other Christians, is to disobey the Lord and possibly get detoured out of the will of God.
- Keep your eyes of faith on Him and on Him alone.

### **HEBREWS 12:1 - 2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE SURROUNDED BY SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES, LET US ALSO LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT, AND SIN WHICH CLINGS SO CLOSELY, AND LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US,

<sup>2</sup>LOOKING TO JESUS, THE FOUNDER AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH, WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD.

*Note: This does not mean that we ignore others, because we do have the responsibility of caring for one another (Phil. 2:1-4). Rather, it means that we must not permit our curiosity about others to distract us from following the Lord. God has His plan for us; He also has plans for our Christian family and friends. How He works in their lives is His business. Our business is to follow Him as He leads us (see Rom. 14:1-13).*

