

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Journey with Jesus through Distraction

John 21:20-23 ESV (15-25) **20** 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?” **21** When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” **22** Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” **23** 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?”

- Let's set the scene: the resurrected Christ, knowing His time on Earth is drawing to a close, makes several strategic appearances to strengthen his followers' faith. It's been almost two weeks since He's resurrected from the grave, and now He makes his way to the Sea of Tiberias to prepare a beach barbecue for His disciples. After He finished grilling the fish, He said, “Come have some breakfast” (John 21:12).
- After that conclude what I imagined to be a delicious and nutritious breakfast, He turns His attention to Peter, and the following exchange takes place;
- **John 21:15-19 ESV** **15** When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” **16** He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” **17** He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. **18** 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.” **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.”

- **God is not distracted by your dysfunctions. He knows how to deal with your dysfunctions while simultaneously delegating you to your assignment. You just have to stay in His care.**
- **Luke 22:31-34 NIV 31** “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. **32** But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” **33** But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.” **34** Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”
- Jesus had a solution and an assignment for Peter before he knew he had a dysfunction or that he was called.
- Now, after having this commissioning conversation with Christ, you would think that Peter would be deeply focused and contemplative. However, he somehow has the bandwidth to ask Christ about John’s future. Now, while on the surface, Peter’s inquiry may seem caring and thoughtful, it actually reveals a struggle that many of us have...
- ***Often, we do not fulfill God's assignments because we are distracted by the words, actions, and results of others.***
- Whether it was jealousy, longing, disappointment, or any other distracting negative emotion, Peter took his eyes off his assignment and gave undue attention to John's assignment. Jesus loved and approved them both, but they had different assignments. There’s no echelon in the Kingdom; the only rank that matters in the end is servant.
- Within the response of Christ, we see all the fervency and the urgency needed to fulfill our Divine assignment until we leave this earth...**v.22 Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!”**
- ἀκολουθέω (akoloutheó) Greek
- **Follow my path**
- **Go with my Help**
- **Obey my commands**