

## You Follow Me

Just before Jesus ascended to the Father, He had what appears to be a private conversation with Peter. In it, He tells Peter exactly how he was going to die (*Jn. 21:18*). He told him that he was going to give his life for Christ. It was going to be a cruel and painful death. At the end of this conversation, Jesus says to Peter, “*Follow Me*” (*21:19*). It was a simple, yet direct, command. For the rest of his life, these words would provide Peter great encouragement as he willingly suffered for Him.

This, however, was not enough for Peter; he wanted to know more. He turned around and saw John, “*the disciple whom Jesus loved.*” He asked Jesus, “*But Lord, what about this man?*” (*21:20-21*) Peter knew how he was going to die, and now he wants to know how John is going to die. Like so many in this world, Peter was interested in the unknown.

The response that Jesus gives teaches us a valuable lesson about our service to God. Jesus says, “*If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?*” (*21:22*) Simply put, Jesus was telling Peter that it was none of his concern as to how John was going to die. There was no purpose for Peter in knowing this information. Jesus, very directly, was telling Peter to mind his own business.

But that was not the end of the statement. Jesus continues by telling Peter, “*You follow Me.*” This was the same command that Jesus gave to Peter at the beginning of His ministry (*Mk. 1:17*). Peter had a responsibility. Even though there were certain things that he did not need to know, he could still follow Christ. He did not need to be focused on the future of others. He could not allow what would or would not happen to John to determine his eternal future. He needed to follow Christ.

The point of this passage is clear: there is work for all of us to do. We cannot focus on what others may or may not be doing. We cannot focus on what will or will not happen to them. We can only control the fact that we have work to do. We each have a responsibility to serve our God and follow Him.

From this point forward, Peter would teach many about Jesus. He would give his life in service to his Lord. He would be threatened, beaten, and, as Jesus said, he would be killed because of his faithful life. He fulfilled the responsibility to follow Jesus.

What about you? Are you following Christ each day of your life? May we take these words of Jesus to heart and continually follow Him.

# *Eagle Way church of Christ*

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## **Elders**

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## **Sunday Services**

Bible Study – 9:00 AM  
Morning Worship – 10:00 AM  
Evening Worship – 6:00 PM

## **Wednesday Services**

Ladies Bible Class – 9:30 AM  
Evening Bible Study – 7:00 PM

## **Mission Work**

Cameroon, West Africa  
India Mission Fund  
Heritage Christian University  
New Pathway's Children's Home  
Australia (Peter Tickner)  
Boulder, Colorado (David Howard)  
Partners for Africa (Dorian Flynn)  
Open Door Ministry (Dale Byrum)