

48- Verifying Messiah in our Individual Lives... John 21:18-25

As we have unfolded the events of John one thing that is very apparent is that Christ knew men. He knew their hearts, their hidden secrets, their failures and their successes. May I be so bold to state that Jesus knows us just a well.

In our last session we saw Jesus speak to Peter about his failures at the time of Christ trial. Our text this time continues the conversation during that sea shore encounter.

I- The Prophecy:

Jesus spoke many prophetic words during His time on earth. Many had to do with His coming death and resurrection. Others would not be fulfilled for forty or fifty years after His death. We have one here concerning Peter.

Joh 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. 19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God.

Christ tells Peter that he now goes where he wills by his own strength. He tells him that when he is old he would be bound and taken where he would not have gone in his will. Tradition tells us that Peter was bound and crucified upside down years later.

There is another event that I have always connected to this prophetic word of Christ here. In *Acts 12* Peter is in prison for preaching. Herod had already killed James the brother of John with a sword. He had Peter arrested because it pleased the Jews. Notice that Peter did not seem to fear for his life at that time. *Acts 12:5-7 Peter therefore*

was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. 6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. 7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

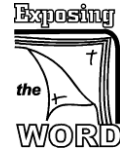
If you knew that tomorrow you would probably die would you sleep? I don't think many would very well. I have always felt that Peter believed the words of Christ and did not have any fear of death by Herod at this time. He was not yet old.

Certainly this again verified the Messiah in Peter's life.

II- The Commission:

The calling of the disciples early in Jesus ministry was to follow Him. He restated the commission to follow Him here to Peter. *Joh 21:19b ...And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.*

Earlier in His ministry Jesus had been speaking about his death and Peter had rebuked Him. In this context notice what Christ said about being a follower of His in *Matthew 16:22-26 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. 24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow*



me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

There are many who see the words that He spoke to Peter meaning that Peter would follow Him to the cross of crucifixion. Regardless if this is true or not Christ calls us to follow Him with all our strength heart and soul, even unto death. We must process this in our lives as we accept the will of God unfolding in our lives.

III- Changing the Subject:

When something makes us uncomfortable most of the time we want to get off that subject of discussion. It is human nature to do so. Peter tries that tactic here.

Joh 21:20 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? 21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

Peter turns and sees John and says what about him. What is he going to do?

IV- It's Between Him and Me:

The reply that Jesus gives is very insightful as well as pointed. *Joh 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.* The HCSB says, *"If I want him to remain until I come," Jesus answered, "what is that to you? As for you, follow Me."*

Now beloved let me be as straight as I can be with US. Not you, not me, but US. Most of US spend more time worrying about others spiritual condition in the wrong way and not focusing enough on OUR condition. Jesus said it something like this in the NASB translation in *Matthew 7:1-5 "Do*

not judge so that you will not be judged. 2 "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. 3 "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5 "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Jesus tells Peter to worry about following Christ in his life and let John flesh out God's will for his. Paul said later to the Philippians, *"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."* *Philippians 2:12*

V- Rumors Abound:

After this the rumors began to fly. *Joh 21:23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?*

John says that the rumors are not true that Jesus said Peter would not die. Rumors usually take a life of their own but for the most part are not true. *Joh 21:24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. 25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.*

There is so much more about Christ that we will learn in eternity. Has He been verified in your heart? Is He your Savior?