



## **“Jesus and the Beloved Disciple”**

**John 21:20-25**

**Sermon Date: May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

### **Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon**

### **Prayer**

As you begin your study, spend a few moments praising God for the book of John and for all the things He has revealed about Himself in it. Thank Him for how He has grown you through your study of this amazing book and for the witness it bears about Jesus Christ. As you pray, make the following words your own before the Lord (prayer taken from Everyday Prayers by Scotty Smith).

*“Dear Lord Jesus,*

*Two unschooled, ordinary fisherman named Peter and John were radically changed because ‘these men had been with Jesus — with you, the same Lord who lives in my heart and rules all things from heaven...*

*Lord Jesus, doing noble things for you is not the same thing as spending life-giving time with you. Thinking great thoughts about you is not the same thing as vital communion with you. Helping others understand the gospel is not the same thing as drinking presently and deeply from the wellspring of grace for myself. In all honesty, I’m not really concerned about others being able to say, ‘He’s been with Jesus,’ I want my own heart to know that I’ve been with you.*

*Because who or what do I have in heaven but you Jesus? You make heaven heavenly. And being with you, I desire nothing on earth, because absolutely nothing else satisfies my my soul like you do. My flesh and my heart may fail, but you, Jesus, are the strength of my heart and my portion, my banquet, my inheritance, forever. It is good, and it is enough, for me to be near you, my sovereign Savior and my loving refuge. I pray in your holy and compassionate name. Amen.”*

## **Scripture**

### **John 21:20-25 (English Standard Version)**

<sup>20</sup>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?” <sup>21</sup>When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” <sup>23</sup>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?”

<sup>24</sup>This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

<sup>25</sup>Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

## **Handling the Word**

1. Our passage continues a conversation between Jesus and Peter. Go back and read John 21:15-19 and write down some of the highlights of that conversation for some context for this week’s text.

## **Understanding and Applying**

1. Throughout the book of John, he refers to himself six times as the disciple Jesus loves. Read each of the passages where John describes himself as the one Jesus loves. What stands out to you as you read these?
  - a. John 13:23-25 –
  - b. John 19:26-27 –
  - c. John 20:1-10 –
  - d. John 21:1-25 –

2. We read in God's word that Jesus loves us; we sing the great hymn we learned as children. Jesus loves you, however, has this truth become a reality in your life? Do you believe that Jesus loves you? Look up the following verses and write down what stands out to you as you read them.
  - a. 1John 4:9-11 –
  - b. Romans 5:8 –
  - c. John 3:16 –
  - d. Ephesians 2:4-5 –
3. Has your belief that Jesus loves you been conditional on your circumstances? When you are struggling with sin, is it harder for you to believe that Jesus loves you? Why or why not?
4. In verse 17, John tells us that Peter was grieved, and as soon as Jesus finished talking Peter was looking for the closet opportunity to get the focus off of himself. John just happened to be close to them, and Peter attempted to change the subject or at least redirect the conversation onto a different person. When faced with godly discipline or correction, do you try as Peter did to divert the discussion or redirect the conversation onto another person?
5. In verses 21 and 22, Jesus draws Peter's attention to what is important and that Peter should follow him. <sup>21</sup>*When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?"* <sup>22</sup>*Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"* <sup>23</sup>*So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die.* Instead of the brothers focusing on Jesus and his call to follow him, they instead focused on the nuance of Jesus' rebuke and verse 23, spread a rumor that John would not die. Share some things in your own life that have the potential to draw your attention away from Jesus?

6. What truth, or truths, in this passage do you want to prayerfully consider in the days ahead? How does that truth impact the way you think about and worship Jesus?

*“And now let us close the Gospel of St. John with mingled feelings of deep humility and deep thankfulness. We may well be humble when we think how ignorant we are, and how little we comprehend of the treasures which this Gospel contains. But we may well be thankful, when we reflect how clear and plain is the instruction which it gives us about the way of salvation. The one who reads this Gospel profitably, is he who ‘believes that Jesus is the Christ, and, believing, has life through his name.’”*

*J.C. Ryle*