



Sunday 19th April 2026
Ps Dave Connell

You...Follow Me!

John 21

We pick up at the most significant moment in history **the resurrection of Jesus - changed eternity. Central to our faith.**

And the **pivotal moments** after that...**the encounter on the beach**

Jesus asks: "Do you love me?" 3x

And then: "Feed my sheep"

"The future of Jesus' ministry now sits in this conversation"

👉 This is not just a restoration conversation

👉 This is a destiny conversation

This would shape **who would carry it forward & multiply it to every nation & generation** until Jesus comes again.

This still is relevant for every follower of Jesus today

Be very careful of who is in your 'destiny conversations'

THE COST IS REVEALED

Jesus then says:

John 21:18-22 AMPC

*[18] I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, when you were young you girded yourself [put on your own belt or girdle] and you walked about wherever you pleased to go. But when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will put a girdle around you and carry you where you do not wish to go. [19] He said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. And after this, He said to him, **Follow Me!***

*20] **But Peter turned and looked at the disciple whom Jesus loved, following...***

[21] When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, Lord, what about this man?

*[22] Jesus said to him, If I want him to stay (survive, live) until I come, what is that to you? [What concern is it of yours?].... **You follow Me!***

This is not softened.

👉 This is Jesus saying:

"This will cost you your life."

"The same conversation that restores him... also requires everything from him."



sermon notes

◆ THE SIDEWAYS LOOK

Then it happens...Peter turns sideways...

He looks at John...And he asks: *“What about him?”*

This is the human response to the weight of such decisions

“The moment the cost becomes real... we start looking sideways.”

And today—the sideways look & comparison are amplified more than ever.

- Comparison is **constantly fed**
- **Social success** is constantly measured...with a **crooked ruler** which people use to set **their life!**
- Peter had to turn his head to compare... **we carry comparison in our pocket.**

Peter had just been told his future would cost him.

Every great future comes at a cost

Today, many people feel:

Uncertain about their purpose

Unsure of direction

Questioning if they're on the right path

👉 **So they look sideways for validation**

“Am I doing as well as them?”

“Am I behind?”

Peter hears his path will be costly... then immediately wants to know John's.

👉 **Same today:**

“Why is their life look easier?”

“Why is my path seem harder?”

Jesus tells Peter the cost upfront.

Looking sideways is a way of saying:

👉 *“Can I measure this before I fully commit?”*

Today that shows up as:

Holding back obedience, Delaying decisions, Keeping options open

“The sideways look is often an attempt to negotiate the cost of obedience.”

“You cannot fully embrace your calling while constantly evaluating circumstances or what others are doing ...or not doing.”



sermon notes

◆ JESUS' RESPONSE

Jesus says:

“What is that to you? You follow me.”

No explanation. No comparison. No reassurance about others.

👉 Just: *“Stay with me.”*

“Comparison is a distraction from divine destiny.”

“Clarity doesn’t come from looking around... it comes from staying close.”

◆ THE BIG QUESTIONS

👉 Why didn’t Peter walk away?

👉 Why didn’t the weight crush him?

1. He had encountered the reality of the risen Christ
2. He had experienced a deep pain that he never wanted to experience again...the pain of regret...the pain of hell

◆ RESURRECTION — REALITY...not theory

On that beach:

Jesus is alive...Speaking...Eating...Restoring

“He didn’t just believe in life after death... he ate breakfast with it.”

This is not abstract theology.

👉 This is resurrection in front of him

THE REVELATION (YEARS LATER)

1 Peter 1:3–4:

*“He has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection... and into an **inheritance** that can never perish, spoil or fade...”*

◆ BREAK IT OPEN

Living Hope

Not dead hope

Not distant hope

👉 Living — active, present, real

“Peter’s hope wasn’t something he imagined... it was something he had encountered.”

This goes straight back to the encounter on the beach.



Inheritance

Cannot perish → death can't touch it

Cannot spoil → sin can't corrupt it

Cannot fade → time can't diminish it

“Everything in this world fades... but what Peter saw in Christ does not.”

◆ EXPAND >

1 Corinthians 15:16-20 TPT

[16] If the dead aren't raised up, that would mean that Christ has not been raised up either. [17] And if Christ is not alive, you are still lost in your sins and your faith is a fantasy. [18] It would also mean that those believers in Christ who have passed away have simply perished. [19] If the only benefit of our hope in Christ is limited to this life on earth, we deserve to be pitied more than all others!

*[20] **But the truth is, Christ is risen from the dead, as the firstfruit of a great resurrection harvest ...***

Christ is the firstfruits

EXPLAIN

Firstfruits means:

- First of many
- Same kind
- Guarantee of what follows

“What Peter saw in Jesus... was not the exception—it was the beginning...It was a demonstration of what was on the other side of suffering

No eye has seen!!

1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him....but God reveals it by His Spirit”

*Things never discovered or heard of before, things **beyond our ability to imagine** — these are the many things God has in store for those who love Him*

◆ THE SIDEWAYS LOOK

👉 Why does Jesus shut down comparison?

Because:

Peter's future is secure. His inheritance is untouchable. His ending is already anchored.



“When our hope is secure in what God has for us in eternity... you don’t need to measure with deceitful & crooked rulers.”

FINISH

Peter saw the risen Christ

Peter received the call

Peter faced the cost

But Peter also knew:

That will not be how my story ends

The grave is not the end

Suffering is not the end

Resurrection & a new far better life is the end

◆ FINAL CALL

In every generation of people since that time, that call still resonates:

“You follow me.”

You may not understand your path

You may feel the weight of the cost

You may be tempted to look sideways

***“Don’t look sideways trying to understand your future...
when Jesus has already shown you where it leads.”***