



## You Follow Me

By Jeff Bedwell on October 11, 2022

### TODAY'S READING: John 21

It is so easy to fall into the comparison trap. We compare our lives to someone else's life, or at least what we think we know about their lives from social media, because that always tells the whole story, doesn't it?

Comparison was happening long before social media, it is a part of our struggle as human beings. This can especially be true when we are going through a difficult or challenging time in our own lives. During these seasons it can appear that everyone else has it so much better or easier than we do. We may even wonder why we are being "picked on." Why is this happening to me? Why can't my life be more like (you fill in the blank).

In today's reading, Peter experiences a wonderful reminder of Christ's love and acceptance of him despite his denials on the night before Christ's crucifixion. Peter is renewed in his calling as an apostle of Christ Jesus. Then Jesus informs Peter that he must suffer martyrdom as an aspect of his discipleship. That meant he was called to follow Jesus, even to the point of crucifixion. In this way he would also glorify God, as a faithful disciple who was willing to follow his master to death (see 1 Peter 4:16).

At this point, Peter begins to compare. He asks Jesus about John. What is going to happen to John? Jesus' response was direct and challenging to Peter. "*Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!'*" (John 21:22, ESV)

God has unique plans and purposes for all of our lives. We have different races to run, callings to fulfill. We have valuable but varied places within the body of Christ and the kingdom of God. God sovereignly assigns these things in our lives. Our calling is to fix our eyes on Jesus and follow Him wherever He may lead us and whatever the circumstances may be. In all things we are to follow Christ in such a way that through prosperity or adversity, through life or through death, we glorify God (vs. 19).

Today, regardless of your present circumstances, hear Christ's personal call to you to follow Him. Leave the comparisons behind and fix your eyes on Jesus. "*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God*" (Hebrews 12:1-2, ESV).

**PRAYER:** Father, forgive me when I compare and complain. Help me today to love You and follow You with all my being. May my life bring glory to Your name and further Your kingdom.

**TOMORROW'S READING: 1 John 1**

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