

Christianity Isn't for Cowards

John 21.15-25

May 2, 2021

Introduction

- The passage before us today spells out what it takes to follow Jesus

Main points: what does it take to follow Jesus?

1. _____ – following Jesus requires a dedicated heart --
 - three things happen which evoke a declaration of commitment:
 - Jesus revisits the past –
 - Jesus gives Peter a divine commission –
 - Jesus provides redemption by giving Peter the opportunity to re-profess his faith –
2. _____ – following Jesus is dangerous –
 - prediction or proverb?
 - Peter's death will be for the glory of God recalls the teaching in the Gospel that God is to be glorified through the death of Jesus.
 - John 12:27–28; 13:31–32; 17:1
 - 1 Peter 4:16.
 - If the shepherd's task is to lay down his life for his sheep, then the corollary of Peter's commissioning as shepherd is martyrdom.
3. _____ – following Jesus means not comparing yourself to others –
 - Peter's humanity is on display again
 - Peter's problem from the start has been comparing himself with other disciples—"Do you love me more than these?" (v. 15)—something he now begins doing again.

- It is a reminder, along with other related passages, of this disciple's special place alongside Peter. That is of importance in a passage that deals with the contrasting destinies of the two disciples.

4. _____
 - "These things" cannot be limited to the immediately preceding scene involving Jesus, Peter, and this disciple, nor to chapter 21 alone. Rather, the notice pertains to the entire Gospel, the "testimony" on which it rests, its authorship, and consequently its authority.
 - Many have "testified" in the course of the narrative:
 - 7 different witnesses
 - who are the "we?"

Conclusion

- If you want to follow Jesus you have to count the cost. It requires
 - commitment
 - courage
 - character
 - clarity
- Jesus calls us to follow Him into the Holy Wild, to join him on a great adventure, to participate in the greatest story ever told. But make no mistake...
- Christianity isn't for cowards.

Amen.