

**Sermon Title: *“Following the Infinitely Glorious Christ”***

**Scripture: John 21:20-25**

Pastor Chris Fritz

Sunday, November 18, 2018

**I. KEEPING THE MAIIN THING THE MAIN THING**

**A. The Savior’s Clear Direction: “Follow Me!” (John 21:15-19)**

Note: The emphasis here is not on dying for Christ but on living for Christ!

***John 14:15 - “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”***

***John 14:21a - “Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me.”***

***John 14:23 - “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”***

***1 Peter 2:2 - “Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.”***

***Matthew 22:37-40 -***

*What does that mean, to follow Jesus?*

**B. The Disciple’s Common Distraction: “Yeah… but what about him?” (John 21:20-23)**

1) Peter quickly becomes distracted.

Note: One of the greatest hindrances & distractions in the Christian life is wasted time worrying about other people (their gifts, ministry, blessings, successes, failures, etc.).

***1 Corinthians 4:1-5 - “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.”***

2) Jesus rebukes Peter, calling him again to follow Him!

Note: Jesus strongly asserts His sovereignty.

Note: Jesus strongly asserts that His children are His concern.

3) Verse 23 is an important clarification and its inclusion reveals some things about this book.

Note: This statement indicates that John wrote this book later in life, around 80 or 90 AD.

Note: This statement reminds us of the importance of paying attention to every word that Jesus says!

Note: This statement reminds us of our need to, at times, humbly accept correction.

***Romans 12:2 - “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”***

**C. The Author’s Concluding Declaration: “Christ is infinitely glorious!” (John 21:24-25)**

1) About John, the Author: His testimony is true.

2) About Christ, the Savior: There is so much more that could be said!

**Take Home Questions for Further Study & Reflection & Application…**

1. How is Jesus’ words to Peter about Peter’s upcoming death actually good news for Peter?
2. What is the connection between loving God, obeying God, and loving God’s people?
3. When have you found it easy to follow Christ? When have you found it difficult to follow Christ? What things typically hinder you from following Christ?
4. What distraction did Peter immediately face after being told to follow Jesus? How did Jesus respond to Peter’s “distracted question”? How have you faced and dealt with this distraction?
5. What is John’s stated purpose for writing this book? What response does John desire to see in those who read and study this book?