

Follow Me

Read John 21:18-22

Go back to Jesus' private conversation with Peter in John 21. Jesus has now restored His relationship with Peter. Peter has three times turned away from his fearful denials and has reaffirmed his devotion to Jesus (vv.15-17).

Remember that Peter had earlier offered to die for Jesus (John 13:37-38), then had panicked and denied even knowing Him (John 18:25-27).

Jesus now tells Peter that he will indeed die for Christ. What Peter had brashly offered then fearfully fled will happen. His earthly life will end in martyrdom (John 21:18-19). Jesus tells him this in a very matter-of-fact way, as matter-of-factly as He had shared breakfast with them.

What is important to Jesus is not that Peter will die the violent, unjust death of a martyr. What Jesus emphasizes to Peter is this: no matter what happens, no matter what opposition he encounters, no matter what others do, he should continue to do this one thing: simply follow Jesus.

Jesus' call to Peter here at the end is the same as it was at the beginning of their relationship:

"Follow Me." (Mark 1:17; John 21:19, NASB)

Jesus' call to Peter was to follow the Good Shepherd and be a good shepherd to those God would entrust to him.

Isn't it remarkable that when God speaks to us, He is neither harsh nor sentimentally soft. He neither crushes us nor spoils us. His love and His personal presence seem to make everything beautiful. That personal relationship is His best blessing. Even when the result will be suffering and death, His call is always warm and life-giving and face-to-face: *"Follow Me."*

Listen & Sing: [Come and Follow Me](#) (from LNWhymns.com)