

# WHAT IS THAT TO THEE

## JOHN 21

Text: John 21:22

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<sup>22</sup> Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what *is that* to thee? follow thou me.

Introduction:

We have here in our text eight words that can change your life. These words consist of a question and a command. The question is “What is that to thee?” followed by this command, “Follow thou me.”

This was a new chapter in Peter’s life. He had left all to follow Christ. He had denied the Lord three times. And now we find Peter discouraged, has left the ministry, and is back to fishing.

The Lord appears to the disciple and Peter and the while they are fishing out from the bank, and the see Jesus standing on the shore but they did not recognize Him.

The Lord instructs them where to throw their net in order to catch fish, and when they did they did catch fish. So when they get to shore that Lord already had fish cooking on the fire.

He then ask Peter a very important question. “Do you love me more than these?” After asking three times Peter got a little irritated. But the Lord was getting really to the heart of the problem.

And like most of us, who really don’t like having the Word of God directed strait at us, Peter began to look at others and began to wonder what they were going to do.

But the Lord answered in a direct way again, “What is that to thee.” And then commanded, “Follow thou me.”

Consider:

## **1. CONSIDER PETER’S QUESTION.**

(John 21:21) "Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?"

A. Peter wanted to compare his work to that of John.

1. I am going to feed sheep, what will John do?

2. I’m going to die as a martyr, what will John do?

B. Have you been losing God's best because of envy.

1. Envious of:

a. Another's position

b. Another's talents

c. Another's speaking ability

d. Another's success

e. Another's money

f. Another's attention

C. God often chooses to use those who think they have little to offer.

D. He often uses those who, others think have little to offer.

## **2. CONSIDER THE LORD'S QUESTION**

(John 21:22) "Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me."

A. A sensitive area.

1. Some look at the failure of others as an excuse.

2. Some hide behind the hypocrite for their excuse.

B. Remember: You are not accountable for the sins of others.

(Romans 14:12) "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

1. There will be no excuses when we stand before God.

C. We must look past the failures of others to Christ who never fails.

### **3. CONSIDER CHRIST COMMAND.**

(John 21:22) "Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me."

A. The Lord was saying to Peter, that none of your business, you follow Me.

B. We too need not be concerned about the sins of others, but only following Him.

C. We too need to look at the failures of others, but only following Him.

D. We too need not be concerned about the wrong and hurtful things that have been done to us, but only following Him.

E. We need not be concerned about what someone else does in church, but only following Him.

F. We need not be concerned about being recognized, but only following Him.

G. We need not be concerned about the success of someone else, but only following Him.

#### **4. THE CAUSE OF NOT OBEYING THE LORD'S COMMAND.**

A. We don't really love the Lord.

(John 21:15-17) "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. {16} He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. {17} He saith unto him the

third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep."

1. All too often we love these more than Him.

Close:

The Lord gets to the heart of Peter. What is that to thee? Follow thou Me.