

"When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!" (John 21:21-22)

### I. A Gentle Rebuke

- a. Jesus had just spoke to Peter about his life and ministry, and now he talks about Peter's death.
- b. Peter must have rejoiced on being restored, but why bring up martyrdom?
  1. Tradition informs us that Peter was crucified upside down. (2 Peter 1:13-14)
- c. When a person has settled the matter of death, they are ready to live and serve.
- d. We must yield, just as Jesus yielded for us, and be living sacrifices. (2 Tim 4:6-8)
- e. After Peter was reconciled, Jesus told him directly, "Follow Me." Peter looked back (v.20) and saw John following him, and said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?"
- f. Jesus answered, "If it is My will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You Follow Me!"
- g. Peter had a history of taking his eyes off Jesus. Peter, walked on the stormy sea with Jesus, but when he looked at the wind and waves, he immediately began to sink. (Matt 14:30)
- h. The Lord reminded Peter that his job was to follow Him and not meddle into His will for another.
- i. Let us be clear. We have the responsibility to care for others, but we must not allow our curiosity about them to distract us from what God requires us to do.
- j. God has a plan for you and Christians. How God works in their lives is His business!
- k. Be careful that you do not envy other believers who apparently are getting God's "blessings" in abundance while you may be reaping a meager harvest. Trust Him without seeing Him!

### II. Eyes On Jesus

- a. *But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.* (Matthew 10:30) The verb *numbered* is in a pluperfect tense that means more than completed. The hairs are *watched* from beginning to end.
- b. **The very hairs of your head have been all numbered before creation was made.**
  1. Most Christians believe in the providence (foresight) of God, yet we do not always trust it.
  2. All the events of your life, great and small, are under the Lord's oversight.
- c. **God is so involved in knowing you that the very hairs of your head are watched by Him.**
  1. God is aware when the hair falls and when it turns gray.
  2. You will not be older than God wills. Also, you will not die before your time, nor live beyond it.
- d. **The Lord has set a high value on you. You are so precious that the least portion of you is precious.** *Ask a mother what her child is worth.*
  1. The Lord knows our lying down and our rising up, our thoughts and our ways.
  2. How precious are you? Christ's death redeemed what God watches over.
- e. **God numbers, protects, and preserves His own.**
- f. We must trust the Lord in *how* He watches over us. (illus. Parent watching a child)
- g. God will never lead us into danger without His power & protection. Trust Him without seeing Him.

### III. Practical Application

- a. More problems are caused by confused saints when they misunderstand God's plan for His people. (Jeremiah 29:11)
- b. It is dangerous to look at the circumstances instead of looking to the Lord.
- c. Be grateful that His eyes are on you. Pray that your eyes will stay focused on Him.