

Daily Devotional, September 30, 2020 Use me, Use Me Up

Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!” John 21:18-19 (NIV)

What if Jesus were to appear to you right now and told you that you were going to be martyred for Him? Would you have a sudden change of heart for Him? That's exactly the kind of test that Peter faced in the verses we are looking at today. Jesus openly told Peter that the day would come when he would be crucified as a martyr for Him, and Jesus called him regardless of this to follow Him. How would you respond to this?

Peter's response was to look over his shoulder where he spotted John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, the one who had leaned against Jesus' breast at the Last Supper. And, looking at John, Peter said, What about him

Like Peter, we are constantly comparing ourselves to others, justifying our stances and actions based on how they're living. We look to see how passionately they love Jesus, and then adjust our degree of love to match theirs. We watch for how passionately and zealously the people around us serve God, how much of themselves they give to God, and what parts of their lives they want to hold back from Him.

But the thing is, Jesus isn't looking at them right now. He's not interested in anyone else. He's looking at you.

Can you hear Jesus' voice today? Can you hear Him asking you, “Will you follow Me no matter what? Will you give Me all of your life today? Will you live your life based on what I say and what I am asking of you instead of relying on what other people do for Me?”

This is essentially what Jesus was asking of Peter. He asked, What about that guy? I could care less about that guy. I'm asking of you. Will you follow me, no matter where I lead you?

It all comes down to how close a relationship we have built with Jesus. It doesn't matter what everyone else is doing. What is more important is what exactly are you doing? Do you have that personal relationship of compassion, of a strong connection and commitment in letting God find you, call you, help you, feed you, serve you, and love you?

Will you follow God, no matter where God leads you? The choice is yours.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I confess that I might not like all the places You lead me, I may not feel up for all the challenges you place before me, but I love You more than that. Therefore, I choose today to follow You and let You lead me and love me, no matter where that takes us. To the glory of your holy name. Amen