

John 21 v 15-25

15 After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.”

“Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him.

16 Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.”

“Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said.

17 A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.

18 “I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don’t want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.”

20 Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?” 21 Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?”

22 Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.” 23 So the rumor spread among the community of believers that this disciple wouldn’t die. But that isn’t what Jesus said at all. He only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

24 This disciple is the one who testifies to these events and has recorded them here. And we know that his account of these things is accurate.

25 Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.

Questions:

Have you ever not been selected for or even kicked out of a team? How did it feel? Was your exclusion justified? Was it necessary?

1. Why did Jesus ask Peter the question 3 times? How do we think this made Peter feel?
2. How could Peter demonstrate his love for and loyalty to Jesus now?
3. How significant is the shepherd imagery in verses 15-17?
4. What does Jesus mean by his prediction in v18? What can we learn from this?
5. Why do we think Peter asked about John?
6. What does Jesus mean by his answer to this question in v22? How should we apply this to our lives?

Have any of us ever compared ourselves to someone else? Was it a fruitful exercise?

If we were to write a book about what Jesus has done in our lives, what would be some of the chapter headings?