

# Christianity needs to be **PERSONAL**

ACC MESSAGE Sunday 12TH JANUARY 2020\_Ps Barry Silverback

- *How personal is it for us?*
- *How personal is our faith in Christ?*

TEXT: ***What shall this man do? (KJV)***  
***What about John? (NET)***

## READ

*John 21:17-22*

*17 Jesus said a third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that Jesus asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" and said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus replied, "Feed my sheep.*

*18 I tell you the solemn truth, when you were young, you tied your clothes around you and went wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will tie you up and bring you where you do not want to go."*

*19 (Now Jesus said this to indicate clearly by what kind of death Peter was going to glorify God.) After he said this, Jesus told Peter, **"Follow me."***

20 Peter turned around and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them. (This was the disciple who had leaned back against Jesus' chest at the meal and asked, "Lord, who is the one who is going to betray you?")

21 So when Peter saw him, **he asked Jesus, "Lord, *what about him?*" - (what shall this man do?)**

22 Jesus replied, "If I want him to live until I come back, ***what concern is that of yours?*** ***You follow me!***" NET

- **If we are not vigilant (watchful) Christianity can become something that is just general, impersonal, abstract, detached, OBJECTIVE, rather than SUBJECTIVE,**

- **Objective** (not influenced by personal feelings or opinions in considering and representing facts); -
- **Subjective** (based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes, or opinions)

## The text and the story;

- It was when Peter and Jesus were together and Jesus unfolded some future things related to Peter's life and journey which were very significant and serious
- It was then that Peter asked Jesus what will happen to John? What is his future pathway?
- This was a natural question for Peter to ask, ***'what shall this man do;*** BUT it was the Jesus' response that was both **COMMANDING** and **ABUNDANTLY** clear: ***'what is that to you'? – 'what business is that to you'? - follow me***  
*John 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, **what is that to thee?** follow thou me. KJV*

❖ **BUT JESUS' ANSWER, IS ALSO TRUE AND RELEVANT FOR US TODAY.**

**And this is what I would like to stress to you today:**

- That it DOES NOT matter what happens in **OUR** lives, we are **to follow Jesus**.
- That it doesn't matter whatever happens in the lives of **OTHERS** we are commanded **to follow Jesus**
- The trials, the storms, the adverse circumstances, the joys, the victories etc; we are still required **to continue following Jesus**.
- NOT ALL PATHWAYS ARE THE SAME FOR EVERYBODY.
- **They are differently planned**
- God's word teaches us that the pathways, or steps of a person are **ORDERED (determined)** by the Lord

*Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. KJV*

*Psalms 37:23 The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. NLT*

- That the pathways of every person are **DIFFERENT** and cannot be measured or

compared with the pathway of someone else.

## OUR PATHWAYS ARE DETERMINED BY GOD.

- *Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things **he planned for us long ago.** NLT*
- *Esther 4:14 If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps **you were made queen for just such a time as this?**" NLT*
- *Romans 8:29 For **God knew his people in advance**, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. NLT*
- *Ephesians 1:11 Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, **for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.** NLT*

- ❖ **These pathways specifically UNFOLD with those who remain following Jesus – those whoa re continually surrendered and committed to HIM**
- ❖ **SO, those things that are happening to US could be quite different to someone else simply BECAUSE it is ordained that way.**
- ❖ **That YOUR journey is A PERSONAL ONE – that it relates to YOU AND MAYBE ONLY TO YOU?**
- ❖ **That such a personal journey COMFORTS US and GIVES US a SENSE OF WORTH and WELBEING because we know that it was our heavenly father who specifically chose it for US.**
- ❖ **This also helps us to better handle those things that are taking place in our lives, because we can NOW relate them to God's ordained way for us.**

## Therefore:

- ❖ WE ARE NOT FORTUNATE OR UNLUCKY, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT ALL WILL WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD

*Romans 8:28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. WEB*

- ❖ INSTEAD OF US COMPARING OUR JOURNEY WITH OTHERS; ACCEPT THAT FACT THAT YOURS IS **PERSONALLY** AND **INDIVIDUALLY** DESIGNED.

## Examples:

- ❖ The apostle writes that though DEATH was working in HIM (also other ministers), it produced LIFE in OTHERS

*2 Corinthians 4:11-12 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. So then death works in us, but life in you. WEB.*

- ❖ SO, THE THINGS THAT HAPPEN TO US MAY WELL BE **FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS**.

Jesus was made poor so that others could be made rich.

- He stooped DOWN (in suffering and shame) so that WE could be LIFTED up.

❖ BUT; IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT WE FACE, WE ARE STILL CALLED TO REMAIN FAITHFUL IN OUR FOLLOWING OF JESUS

❖ PETER'S JOURNEY (of life & death) was to be different to that of JOHN'S; BUT REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY WOULD EACH FACE, THEY WERE BOTH **COMMANDED TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW JESUS**

❖ LET'S MAKE OUR CHRISTIANITY SOMETHING PERSONAL.

❖ LET'S MAKE OUR FAITH IN CHRIST SOMETHING WHICH IS 'OURS', IN RELATION TO HIM.

❖ LET'S MAKE OUR DEVOTION, AND SERVICE SOMETHING **PERSONAL** SO THAT IT HAS MEANING AND RELEVANCE TO OURSELVES AS A PERSON.



❖ LET'S BE CERTAIN THAT WE MAINTAIN OUR DEVOTION TO CHRIST TO BE SOMETHING MORE SUBJECTIVE THAN OBJECTIVE.

❖ I HOPE THIS HELPS US TODAY?