



SERIES: John Believe
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Friday, May 26, 2023
Scripture: John 21:20-23
TITLE: Focus on Jesus

“Quit worrying about your brother.” It seems as parents, we say this often. It's common for our kids to be so focused on what their brothers are doing they stop caring for themselves and their own decisions.

The same is true for us as Christians. We get so wrapped up in what other Christians are doing or not doing that we forget to focus on our own living for Christ in His power. This is the message John captures for us as he closes out his Gospel.

This is what John writes in John 21:20-23.

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" 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!" So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

What a strong close to one of the greatest letters ever written. In the previous verses, Jesus told Peter what kind of death he would experience. Peter's crucifixion was to glorify God. It was the cost of his discipleship. And it was worth it.

Peter then sees John, the author. He asks, "Lord, what about this man?" In other words, so I'm going to die a horrible death just like you. And we know from history this happened. So Peter sees John and says, "Well, that's not exactly what I had in mind. But what about John?"

Jesus' reply is one we should remember. Jesus says, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"

In other words, Peter, don't worry about John or any of the disciples. That's my business. Your business is yours. Follow me. Keep your eyes on me. Don't look to the left or the right. Follow me.

In Matthew 20, Jesus shares the parable of the workers. Each worked different hours, but all received the same payment. All was fair. The same is true for each believer following Jesus. Some will go into ministry others will minister as they work and live. Some will experience

greater trials while others have limited hardship. Some will die for their faith, but all are called to live for Jesus.

Jesus says, "You focus on me alone. I will guide you. My grace is sufficient for you." So you do you. This is good advice for us today.

It's easy to look around and see what people have or experience and get jealous or angry. But there are so many factors we never know. And frankly, it's none of our business. Now this is not a call to not watch out for sin in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are. That's a different topic.

Jesus wants us to focus on Him and follow Him no matter the location, cost, or distance.

So, will you follow Jesus? Will you focus on Him alone? It's my prayer we will. When we do, we will win the day.