

Lesson 13: *Keeping Your Eyes on Jesus*

Monday, December 23, 2024

Ryan Day

Read John 21:20–22. What question led Peter down a wrong path? How did Jesus straighten the path?

²⁰ Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” ²¹ Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what *about* this man?” ²² Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me.” —
John 21:20-22

Jesus had just restored Peter to ministry and told him, “Follow me” (*John 21:19*). It was probably an actual physical following of Jesus down the beach. And that is because Peter turns and sees John following Jesus as well, and he inquires about John. “ ‘But Lord, what about this man?’ ” (*John 21:21, NKJV*).

In restoring Peter to ministry, Jesus had predicted Peter’s manner of death (*John 21:18*). It seems Peter was curious about John’s death, as well. Jesus redirects Peter’s attention instead to the issue of following Him, not worrying about what will happen to another disciple.

Read John 21:23–25. How was Jesus’ statement misunderstood? How did the apostle John correct that misunderstanding?

²³ Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you?” ²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I

suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.—**John 21:23-25**

People misunderstood what Jesus meant when He said, “ ‘If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!’ ” (*John 21:22, ESV*). They thought it meant that Jesus would come back before John died. As time passed and John grew old, it would become a crisis if he were to die (which, of course, he did) and Jesus had not returned. John corrects this misconception by indicating that it was a matter of Jesus’ will, not a prophecy of what *would* happen. The idea of focusing on Jesus, instead of on other people, is a powerful lead into the rest of the week’s lesson. Jesus, and Jesus alone, is our Savior. People will inevitably disappoint you, perhaps even hurt you, as well.

The truths covered for Tuesday through Thursday will pick up on the theme of understanding the Word of God, with the aim of knowing and following Jesus, who alone should be our Master and Guide—regardless of the help, counsel, and guidance that others might give us.

How often have others, whom you might have looked up to, disappointed you? What lessons, however hard, did you learn from that experience?

⁸ *It is better to trust in the Lord
Than to put confidence in man.—Psalm 118:8*

³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.—**Matthew 10:37, 38**

Peter on Water

²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear.

²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

²⁹ So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.” —**Matthew 14:25-33**

Promises/Counsels

³ You will keep *him* in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on You,
Because he trusts in You. —**Isaiah 26:3**

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths. —**Proverbs 3:5, 6**

⁸ But my eyes *are* upon You, O God the Lord;
In You I take refuge; do not leave my soul destitute. —**Psalms 141:8**

¹³ And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you... —**Jeremiah 28:13, 14**

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.—**John 3:14, 15**

³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself.”—**John 12:32**

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.—**Hebrews 12:1, 2**

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!—**John 1:29**

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

O soul are you weary and troubled
No light in the darkness you see
There's light for a look at the Savior
And life more abundant and free

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth
Will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace