

Theme: Every believer is called to *follow* the Lord, but none us will take the same path. Christ fulfills his work in the world of calling and caring for his church, by purifying, equipping, and filling each one of us that we may serve him together.

Background: We have reached the end of the gospel of John. It is as much a *beginning* as it is an *ending*.

Introduction: Looking *back* is sometimes necessary. Looking *ahead* is always profitable. Looking *around* may not be so helpful.

I. Accepting Responsibility

A. What about him? (20,21)

1. Peter’s story/future is clear
 - He knows the “end” of his story
 - There is much still to be lived
2. Peter’s close relationship with Jesus
 - a. Intimate conversations and confrontations
 - Matthew 16:16; **6:68**; Mark 10:28; **13:6,36**; Matthew 26:40
 - b. Intimate settings
 - Matthew 17:1; Mark 5:37; 13:3; 14:33
3. Peter’s close relationship with John
 - a. Their shared relationship with Jesus
 - b. Their shared ministry (Acts 3; 4; 8:14)

B. What about you, Peter?

1. Not your story
 - Mild rebuke
2. Emphatic instruction – “**You** follow me!”
 - Repeated from v.19
3. Different gifts
 - a. Peter – the “leader”
 - b. John – the “thinker”
4. Both (all) are vital
 - a. All disciples live under the commission of John 20:21
 - b. We pursue it in different ways
 - c. Together we are “gathering and perfecting” the saints
 - Westminster Confession of Faith 26.3

C. What about us?

1. Individually called to “Follow Me”
 - Our ultimate concern is not what he is doing with others!
 - We are all called to “Follow” (Matthew 16:24)
2. A shared ministry
 - Utilizing everyone who has been called to *follow*
 - All are needed

II. Quelling Rumors (23)

- A. Dangerous expectations
- Christ will come before John dies?
 - Since he is “old” it will be very soon
 - The focus changes – for the worse!

B. The antidote

1. The full teaching of scripture
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13ff; 2 Thessalonians 3:6ff
2. Listening to what Jesus said

III. Receiving Revelation

A. The chapter or The Gospel (24)

1. The whole of John is in view
 - a. The work of “gathering” and the faith that is required
 - b. The transforming power of the forgiveness of sins
 - c. The power of the Word of God
 - Bringing us to “the truth”
 - For the perfecting of the saints
2. From the pen of John
 - The *royal* “we”

B. Fantasy or fact (25)

1. Is this an exaggeration? Hyperbole?
2. Is it, in fact, true?
 - Consider the Prologue and who is presented there
 - Consider his nature and his works

C. Accept or reject

1. This God – has made himself *known!*
 - In the flesh (our flesh)
 - As a sacrifice for sins
 - Bringing life
 - Who is coming again
 - Revealed in power, glory, love and life
2. What more can you ask?