

John 21.15-25
Epilogue Part 2:

How do you know you are a committed follower?

Key thought: The true gospel call to follow Jesus Christ is a call to self-denial. It is not a man-centered call to self-fulfillment; there is no such thing as “Christianity lite.” The Gospel calls believers to find their lives by losing them. Through Peter’s life and through his public restoration, believers can see an example of the essential means to being a committed follower of Christ. We can see these essentials through the following questions:

1. Vv. 15-17 - Do you have a desire to love Christ above everything
2. Vv. 18-19a – Is that desire to love Christ above all impacting your sacrifice of self?
3. Vv. 19b-25 – Will you follow Him in self-denial and glorifying the Father?

Conclusion: Jesus had exhorted Peter to love Him above everything. Faced with the prospect of sacrificing everything for Christ Peter may have failed before as we do often still today; however, from his restoration Peter did not back down. Peter was learning the lesson that our self-will is not enough but that if we believers are to be committed followers of Christ then He must perfect/complete the imperfect. Peter and the other disciples when empowered by the Spirit of God led committed lives that turned their world upside down.