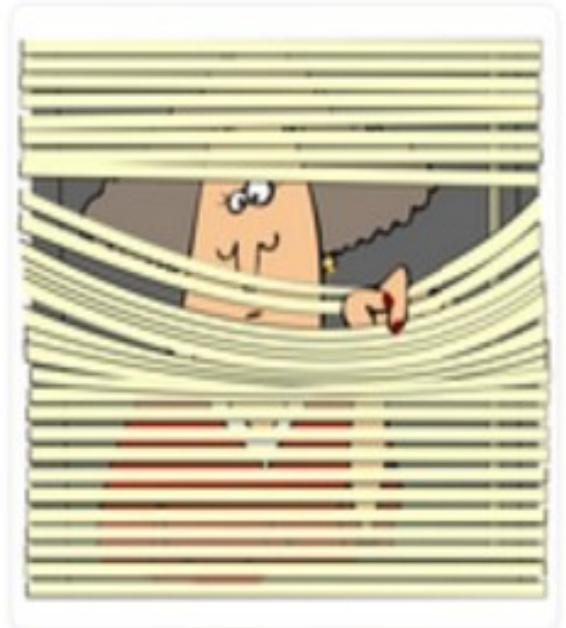


Minding Your Own Spiritual Business

John 21:17-23

Jesus said to [Peter], "Feed my sheep. 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you girded yourself and walked where you would; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go." 19 (This he said to show by what death he was to glorify God.) And after this he said to him, "Follow me." 20 Peter turned and saw following them the disciple whom Jesus loved, who had lain close to his breast at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" 21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" 22 Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!" 23 The saying spread abroad among the brethren 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?"



1. When Jesus told Peter about his own future and about how he would die to glorify God, was Peter satisfied? Please explain.
2. Was it any of Peter's business what was going to happen to the other disciple? Why or why not? Please explain.
3. Whenever Jesus' disciples are curious about the future or about the fate of other people, how does Jesus usually respond? (Please see Luke 13:22-24, Mark 13:4-6, and Mark 13:32-33; Luke 13:1-3; Acts 1:6-8)
4. When faced with such inquisitiveness, why do you think Jesus responds the way he does?
5. Are there any lessons that we today can learn from all of this? Please explain.

Other useful scriptures: Luke 17:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:11-13; 1 Timothy 5:12-13; Mark 9:38-40