

## John 21:20-25 – Jesus and the Beloved Disciple

I believe that John wanted to set the record straight about Peter. The last mention of Peter in the Gospel of Matthew is Peter's denial of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark mentions Peter just once after Peter's denial of Christ. The angel said to the women, "tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee" (Mark 16:7 ESV) The Gospel of Luke mentions Peter twice after his denial of Jesus. Luke 24:12 says that Peter ran to the tomb after the women reported what they saw and heard at the tomb. Luke 24:34 says that Jesus appeared to Simon. Some early Christians may have wondered how Peter, who denied Jesus three times, was now qualified to be the leader of the early church. John answered that question in chapter 21. Jesus singled out Peter, in chapter 21, to feed and tend his lambs and sheep. Peter's denials did not disqualify him from being a leader of the early church. As Jesus had predicted Peter's denials, he also predicted that Peter would eventually lay down his life for Christ. Peter, at the Last Supper, just had not understood the proper timing. Only Jesus could be the perfect sacrifice for sin and be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Peter's death would have added nothing to Christ's sacrifice. It wasn't the time for Peter to die. Jesus had many things that he needed Peter to do after Jesus' resurrection. After Peter's work was complete then he would be martyred.

### **Read John 21:20-25.**

After Jesus told Peter that he would die for Christ when he was older, what did Peter do and say? (21:20-21) Do you ever ask God, "why me?", "what about him/her?"

How did Jesus respond to Peter? (21:22)

How were Jesus' words misunderstood by some people? John clarified what Jesus said. What didn't Jesus say? (21:23)

Who is the beloved disciple? How do we know that he is a truthful witness? (21:24)

How does verse 25 partially answer the question of why John didn't include many of the events and words recorded by the other three Gospels?