

What Shall This Man Do?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

John 21:20-21, "Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?"

When we think of Peter and all that had happened unto him, its amazing that he was so interested in what John was going to do. Peter had denied the Lord, cursed and swore that he didn't even know him, and done it three times. He was sorry for his failure and wept in his grief. Jesus had forgiven him and had told him to follow him. That's when Peter said, "What shall this man do?"

Don't we see the same thing today? So many people wondering what others are doing, instead of doing what they need to do themselves. What is it to us what another person does in their life? Sure, some people's actions effect us, but how they live for the Lord, or not, is between that person and the Lord. We want folks to follow the Lord, but they have to do that for themselves if it is to be done. It is a

full time job to try to keep our self in the path of righteousness.

Some people think that if others are not just like them then they are in the wrong. Much of their time and effort is spent criticizing other people, churches, and anything else that they don't care for. What they are say is, "You need to be like me!" No, a person doesn't need to be like them, me, or any other person of this earth, they need to be like Jesus. He is our example and guide, not some man. And contrary to what sine believe, not Peter, or any one else. Man, try hard as he might, will fail us sooner or later. As long as we're in this flesh we are going to make mistakes. I know that I do, and the person that tells you that he, or she, doesn't make any mistakes, is a liar, or at best fooling himself.

So, what is this, or that person doing? He is living his life and doing according to his beliefs, for which he will stand before God and give account, just like you and me. Someone at church the other day quoted the old saying that ever tub has to set on it's own bottom. I think that is a way of saying that everyone must give account of himself to God.

When Peter asked the question the Lord told him, "If I will that he

tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me." John 21:22. The meaning is clear and needs no great scholar to explain it. Jesus is telling Peter, and us, that he will deal with John - its none of Peter's business what he has for John. It goes without saying that the Lord tells us the same today. I am to follow and to obey the Lord, not spend my time trying to supervise my neighbor. If I can keep myself in line with God's will I have all I can do.

It sounds like the attitude of the Pharisees when someone thinks that he is perfect and wants to have others to be like him. We had better be teaching everyone to follow Jesus and to be as much like him as we possibly can be. Why should any man feel that he is able to judge his neighbor when he has his own sin to deal with on a daily basis.

I hope everyone will follow the Lord and live for him, and I preach it that way, But, when it comes down to it, that is all I, or any other preacher, can do. If my neighbor obeys the Lord he will enter heaven. Those who choose to forsake God and to live according to the flesh will answer to God, not to man. Friend, don't look to see what everyone else is doing, look at what you are doing. Is your life pleasing to God?

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

SAMUEL AND SAUL

SEEKING ADVICE FROM THE PROPHET SAMUEL, SAUL HAS BEEN TOLD HE CAN FIND HIM INSIDE THE CITY, ABOUT TO PREPARE A SACRIFICE...

GO STRAIGHTWAY IN, BUT HURRY BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR THE SACRIFICE!

I MUST GET TO THE PROPHET BEFORE HE DEPARTS!

BUT SAUL NEED NOT FEAR MISSING SAMUEL, FOR, ONLY THE DAY BEFORE, THE LORD HAS SPOKEN IN THE EAR OF SAMUEL...

ABOUT THIS TIME TOMORROW I SHALL SEND THEE A MAN OF BENJAMIN, HIM SHALT THOU ANOINT TO RULE OVER MY PEOPLE!

...AND SO, EVEN AS SAUL ENTERS RAMAH, SAMUEL HAS BEGUN A SEARCH FOR HIM...

...AND NOW THEY MEET! AND AS THEY DO, SAUL HAS NO IDEA OF THE GREAT CHANGE ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE IN HIS SIMPLE LIFE!

JOHN LEHTI

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