

## 37. John 21:18-25

### Getting started

Where has the gospel of John taken you as we have studied it?

### Observations

1. Where else has Jesus spoken about sheep or lambs in John's gospel?
2. What type of death was Jesus' predicting for Peter?
3. Read 20:30-31 and 21:25. Does anything here suggest we have two endings.

### Interpretation

1. What is the point of Jesus asking Peter three times? *[To mimic the three-fold rejection of Jesus by Peter and , in a sense, to give Peter an opportunity to 'unwind' those rejections.]*
2. What do you think Jesus meant when he asked Peter to feed his lambs/take care of his sheep?
3. Was this a special commissioning of Peter (alone or with the other disciples who shared the fish breakfast) or does this apply to all followers of Jesus?
4. How do you interpret the enigmatic conversation in verses 22-23?
5. Who do you think the 'disciple who Jesus loved' is? *[John the son of Zebedee? Another John, e.g. John the elder? Lazarus?]* Does it matter if we do not know?
6. John started with the most exalted, poetic writing in the New Testament (John 1), and ends with a simple story of reconciliation and new purpose. What effect does this have?

### Implications

1. How do Jesus' commands to Peter fit with the role of the church?
2. How can we 'feed the sheep'?

3. What do you think about the gospel of John now? What is distinctive about it?
4. How does the gospel of John help you in your walk with Jesus?
5. How do you like the gospel of John compared to the other gospels?

### **Prayer Suggestions**

1. Thanks for John writing this gospel.
2. Ask that John's gospel will help you in your devotion to Jesus.
3. Ask that churches everywhere care for God's sheep.