

*Series:* Believing and Living; *Sermon:* **A True Witness**

*Delivered by:* **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* April 25, 2021

***Bible text explored: John 21:20-25***

<sup>20</sup>Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” <sup>21</sup>When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” <sup>23</sup>So the saying spread abroad among the brothers 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?”

<sup>24</sup>This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

<sup>25</sup>Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. [ESV]

***Review and application:***

*The structure of John’s Gospel is unique. Its prologue, presenting Jesus as the eternal Word concludes with John 1:16-18. The body of his Gospel concludes with a purpose statement in John 20:30-31. And its epilogue pivots from the account of Peter’s restoration to what assures this Gospel’s reliability.*

1. Who (*verse 21*) is Peter asking about? (John uses a third-person format to refer to himself [*verses 20 and 24*].)  
But what does how John describes himself tell us about the closeness of the disciples’ personal relationships with Jesus?
2. What (*verse 22*) would Peter have been wondering about John’s future?  
What did Jesus’ abrupt answer tell Peter about the distraction of concern about how others followed their Lord?  
In what sense is it positive to have witnessing that is not monochrome, but reflects varied perspectives?  
But how (*verse 23*) did speculation lead to spreading misinterpretation?  
Why is it important to rely primarily on what Scripture says rather than basing what you believe on the interpretation of others?
3. What (*verse 24*) made John confident of the accuracy of his testimony?  
German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer said that radical claims, such as the Good News that John recorded, is usually first ridiculed or violently opposed. (Some Twitter tweets now carry a “this claim is disputed” caution.) But eventually they become widely accepted. What makes John a reliably accurate witness?
4. The relationship between Jesus and the apostles was very close. What about your personal relationships? Do you have a friend with whom you feel free to share confidences?  
What would forming such a relationship with one mature believer take?
5. John’s concluding sentence (*verse 25*) acknowledges that he limited his account of Jesus to what he felt essential to convey. Are you confident that the Gospels contain all you need to follow him and to share with others?