

THE LIFE JESUS PROMISED

January 13, 2019 John 21:18-25 by Bob Branch
Experiencing the Passion of Jesus, part 13

Illusion, Disillusionment, Joy!

BIG IDEA: What kind of a life is Jesus promising?

¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

1. The life Jesus promises is a COSTLY life.

“If any of you wants to be my follower, *you must give up your own way*, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.” **Matthew 16:24-25** NLT

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” **1 John 3:16** (15:13)

²⁰ Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) ²¹ When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?” ²² Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must *follow me*.”

2. The life Jesus promises is a FOLLOWING life. (v.19, 22)

“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and *follow me*. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.” **Matthew 16:24-25** NLT

²³ Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

3. The life Jesus promises is a ONE-OF-A-KIND life.

The comparison trap.

“we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” **Ephesians 2:10** NLT

²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

4. The story of God in Jesus is EXPANSIVE, and you are being drawn into it.

“...if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” **Esther 4:12-14**