

## *The Life of the Apostle Peter*

### Study # 21

## **Peter's Restoration: Part IV**

### **"The Curiosity"**

(John 21:20-23)

## **I. The Curiosity (of Peter) (20-22)**

### **A. The Request (20-21)**

#### **1. The Identity of John (20; Mk. 6:7)**

#### **2. The Inquiry About John**

(21; Heb. 12:1-2; Is. 26:3)

### **B. The Rebuke (22; 1 Thes. 4:11;**

**2 Thes. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:11; 2 Cor. 10:12)**

## **II. The Confusion (About John) (23)**

### **A. The Rumor (23A)**

### **B. The Reality (23B; Lev. 19:16;**

**Pr. 26:20-22; Ps. 15:1-3)**

**When I speak ...**

- **1st - It must be true.**
- **2nd - It must be helpful and kind.**
- **3rd - It must be necessary.**
- **Before I will tell it!**

**CONCLUSION: (Gal. 6:4)**

## **Cross References**

(Abridged)

**Isaiah 26:3** Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

**1 Thessalonians 4:11** And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

**2 Thessalonians 3:10** For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

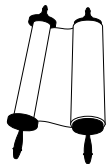
**2 Corinthians 10:12** For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

**Leviticus 19:16** Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: ... I am the Lord.

**Proverbs 26:20-22** Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. [21] As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. [22] The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

**Psalms 15:1-3** Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? [2] He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. [3] He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

**Galatians 6:4** But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.



### **Peter's Struggle**

After a while, Peter looked at John and said to Christ, "Lord, and what shall this man do? You tell me that when I am old another shall gird me and carry me whither I would not. Well, what about John? What will happen to him?" And the Lord answered, "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?"

Simon Peter, your greatest mistake is that you are often looking at and thinking of other people. Do you remember how I sent you to take money from the mouth of the fish? You were upset then because other people's opinions overshadowed your outlook. Do you remember how you denied knowledge of Me? That happened because you permitted other people to influence you. Peter, be less concerned about other folk, and think more of your Master."

"What is that to thee? If I be the Lord, and you are My servant, your chief aim should be to do My will. If I decide that John should linger till I return, that is no business of yours, is it? Simon Peter, if you are to feed My lambs, and shepherd My sheep, you will need to look constantly to Me.

The days ahead will be difficult, and if you lose sight of your Master, anything can happen. Therefore, do not be unduly inquisitive concerning John. Attend to your own affairs." Thus did Christ correct His disciple, and we all realize how necessary this had become. Even in after days Simon still permitted the opinions of others to sway his actions and on one occasion Paul rebuked him because he compromised with the exponents of circumcision. Peter was always getting into trouble because he had not mastered the art of minding his own business (see Galatians 2:11-16). (Ivor Powell)