

## Easter Day 6

Friday April 6, 2018

### Reading: John 21:18-25

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."

### Reflection

It seems that a part of Jesus's restoration of Peter had to do with the fact that there is a day coming in Peter's life when he will be arrested and put to death as a part of his discipleship. This matches with church tradition which says Peter was crucified in Rome, although he did not count himself worthy of the same death as his Lord, so was crucified upside down. When that day comes Peter will not deny his Lord but will confess him. That aside, it can't have been comfortable to hear these words from Jesus so soon after being restored! Naturally, Peter looks at the other disciples and wonders what fate they have; perhaps he thinks he can stomach dying if he's not alone.

But, Jesus won't speak to Peter about someone else's discipleship journey. That is between that disciple and their Lord. Rowan Williams, in a series of talks on C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia*, points out how Aslan (the Christ figure in the stories) repeats this to several of the characters throughout the books. Aslan will not discuss what might have happened, only what will happen. Aslan will not discuss someone else's story, "I only tell you your story." We see by Peter and by *The Chronicles* that we have a tendency to try to divert the gaze of our Lord from ourselves, but we cannot do it.

Our discipleship journey is what Jesus speaks of to each one of us. Our discipleship is not in comparison to others. Some may be called to strange and remote parts of the world. Some appear to live in wealth. Some called to paid ministry. Some are called to die. The question is not, why does their discipleship look like that, but mine looks like this? Rather, our discipleship journey is to ask the question, Jesus what does it mean for me to follow you? Williams points out that if you take Aslan's words and change the emphasis we can hear another meaning which is a comfort, "***I only*** tell you your story." Jesus alone is the one who can tell us our story which is a comfort because he alone is worthy to unroll the scroll of history because he is the lamb who was slain and lives again.

### Prayer

Holder of the future, tell us our story. Help us to keep our eyes on you alone and to step boldly into the discipleship journey you have called us to. Forgive us for the times when our attention strays to others and we foolishly cry "unfair!" Take us where you would have us go, for your glory. Amen.