

*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **Follow Thou Me**

Children are so precious, and so open about their feelings. You never have to wonder how they feel about a thing. Their faces and their questions tell all; and in some cases, children stay children for a very long time. For instance: Johnnie and Suzie were busy playing their favorite game when Mother interrupted them to remind Johnnie that he was supposed to wash the supper dishes. His face contorted in pain, and his voice almost screamed his disgust as he cried, "Ah, Mom, what about Suzie? Why do I have to always be the one?" Of course you can imagine Mom's answer: "Never mind about Suzie! You do as I say or I'll dust your breeches."

The odd thing is that Johnnie and Suzie could pretty well be any age, and one could still expect the same reaction---whether 4 years old or 17!! In some ways, even adults are pronged to whine, "But what about him? Or her?" Soon after Jesus was resurrected, Peter and the rest of the apostles went fishing (as recorded in John 21). Jesus took advantage of this day and this setting to spend some valuable time with them before going back to heaven. This was the occasion when they fished all night and caught nothing, until Jesus came along and instructed them to cast their nets on the right side of the ship. That's when they caught their nets full---153 fish! After building a fire and feasting on the fish, our Lord quizzed Simon three times whether he loved Jesus. Peter began to see that genuine love for the master involved service as he was told all three times: "Feed my lambs (sheep)."

Then the Lord laid down a startling measure of service for which Peter wasn't ready to commit just yet. It was a picture of total commitment (John 21: 18-19). Peter would eventually die for the faith! Much like the story of the Hen and the Pig. The hen said to the pig, "The farmer is very low. We've had this great drought. He's had a loss of crops. Let's cheer him up. I'll provide the eggs, You provide the ham, and we'll prepare a great breakfast for him. The pig saw a flaw in the plan and replied, "It seems to me that you're willing to make a sacrifice for the farmer, but you're asking me to make a total commitment!!"

The Lord wasn't just asking Peter to serve -- to sacrifice -- but to make a total commitment!! Peter was so human one could almost predict how he would react (21:20-21) "Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?"

Can't you just picture it. Peter has his own private conversation with Jesus, but when he finds out how difficult "service" really is, and what a price he'll have to pay, he wants to know: "What about Him?" "Why Me Lord?" "It isn't fair!" The chilling answer in verse 22 reminds us all that their comes a time when we must step forward and answer the call to follow Jesus AND QUIT WORRYING ABOUT WHAT THE OTHER FELLOW IS GOING TO DO! "Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow THOU me." The call to follow Jesus is a call to be willing to pay the ultimate price EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE DOES!

..... Terry Broome

Printed in the *Broad Street Banner*, Volume XVII, Number 31, August 7, 2002.