

Leave Rumor at the Door Seventh Week of Easter Saturday, June 8, 2019 Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; **Jn 21:20-25** (All that a true disciple needs to concern himself or herself with is what should I be doing for the kingdom of God.)

So today we end Paschal time and we complete the reading of the Gospel according to John, which is of course the most mystical of the gospels, the most spiritual of the gospels. It ends with almost something comical or at least humorous because Peter, who Jesus had just spoken to and said, “When you are older, you will be tied up, and taken where you don’t want to go,” indicating that **a disciple is not in charge of his own life or how he dies**. A disciple is a servant. **Well now Peter said, well, “What about him?”** And this of course is very natural, I suppose. **But Jesus’ answer is it’s none of your business about him. “You follow me.”**

Now what ever did happen to the beloved disciple? Well nobody knows. It is assumed that he took care of Mary, Jesus’ mother, many believe at the city of Ephesus, and it is believed by most that he died a natural death as opposed to the other apostles who all were martyred, or at least that’s the belief. We don’t know exactly for sure. **The point of this story however is that the beloved disciple is the witness behind in the Fourth Gospel;** that’s the first thing. Second thing is that the fate of other people or **the destiny of other people need not concern a true disciple. All that a true disciple needs to concern himself or herself with is what should I be doing for the kingdom of God.**

And the third little comment, which is as I said the humorous part, is that this rumor circulated that John would not die until Jesus’ return. Well that’s obviously a false rumor, but of course **all rumors are actually false**. And why is it that people keep giving credence to rumors? That is a question you might spend some time thinking about. **Why do people give their own assent to stories or ideas or statements that are completely unverifiable—why?** Why would you give your assent to that, to stories, to what people say, when in fact we know people don’t know what they are talking about? **So this is a word of caution, you might say, to the Church that please don’t be a community living on rumor.** Leave rumor at the door, the door of your own ears incidentally, the door of your own mind. Don’t let it come in. Just be attentive to what God is asking of you.