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It's None of Your Business

By Teresa Hampton

It is not uncommon to look to others and do a little comparing. Well, maybe a lot of comparing. We may compare our misfortune with another's blessings. We may compare our good works with others' works and think they should be doing more. We may despairingly compare our meager abilities with the near heroic good works of those around us. Or, we may rationalize that our sin is not as great as "so and so's" sin. We make comparisons about many things, don't we?

Jesus spoke of this human tendency, the urge to make comparisons. After His resurrection, but before His ascension, he found the apostles near the sea (John 21:1-22). He prepared breakfast for them and talked awhile. Jesus asked Peter three times, "*Do you love me?*" He replied each time that he loved Jesus. But Peter was talking about *friendship* love, while Jesus was talking about *sacrificial* love. After each reply Jesus told Peter to feed or tend His sheep. Finally, the Lord told him that when he was old he was going to be bound at the wrists and taken where he did not want to go, signifying the personal *sacrifice* Peter would eventually make for the Lord. Impetuous Peter looked around, saw John, and asked about the manner of *his* death. Jesus said, "*If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow me.*" In its essence, Jesus told Peter he had no business comparing himself to John in any shape, form, or fashion. Instead, Peter's sole business was taking care of Peter, making sure that in life and in death he followed Jesus.

Each of us should beware of the pitfall of focusing on others, making comparisons either of good or bad. If the Lord were physically in our presence, He might remind us that it's simply...none of our business. We should, however, be diligent about the Father's business, following Jesus day-by-day and caring for His lambs. That should keep us very busy, don't you think?

Today's Verse: *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified* (2 Corinthians 13:5).

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