

CHARACTER QUALITIES THAT ATTRACT JESUS

John 19:25-27 (niv)

Just before Jesus died on the cross, He chose one of His disciples, John, to take care of His mother.

- With Peter and James, John is one of the “*inner*” three, closest to Jesus. (**Matthew 17:1; 26:37 Mark 5:37; 13:3**)
- John often referred himself as the disciple whom Jesus “*loved.*” (**John 13:23-25, 21:7, 21:20**)

We can identify three qualities that were obvious in John’s life that made him the perfect candidate for the task of taking care of Mary.

... John was a man of **COURAGE**.

Courage is not the absence of fear; it is the mastery of it.
The test of courage comes when we are being *PERSECUTED*.

Matthew 26:56b (niv) *...then all the disciples deserted Him and fled.*
(msg) *...then all the disciples cut and ran.*

While all the disciples abandoned Jesus, John was the only courageous one who remained by Jesus’ side.

Matthew 26:35 (niv) *But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.*

It is easy to say we are devoted to Jesus, but our claims are meaningful only when they are tested in the furnace of persecution.

John 18:15-17 (niv)

Not only did John not run, but he followed Jesus all the way to the high priest’s courtyard after the soldiers arrested Jesus.

The test of courage comes when we are prepared to follow our *CONVICTIONS*.

Acts 4:13; 19-20 (niv)

Matthew 10:32 (gnb) *For those who **declare publicly** that they belong to Me, I will do the same before my Father in heaven.*

... John was a man of **COMPASSION**.

John did not just stand by Jesus; he stood by his mother as well. This was a sincere and genuine act of kindness from a man fuelled with compassion.

Notice that Peter identified that Jesus loved John when he said in;
John 21:20 (tlb) *Peter turned around and saw the disciple Jesus loved following...*

Those who realise how much they are **LOVED** are able to **LOVE** much.

This type of love echoes the words of Peter in; **1 Peter 4:8** (niv) *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*

Compassion is simply the outpouring of **SYMPATHY** for those who are or who have **SUFFERED**.

... John was a man of **COMMITMENT**.

Billy Graham said; *“Salvation is free, but discipleship costs everything we have.”*

There can be no true **CALLING** of God without a **COST**.

True love is costly. The cost of true love is never cheap.
And the proof of love is its capacity to suffer for the object of its affection.

Jesus is our greatest EXAMPLE of being willing to pay the cost.

As seen by His preparedness to be inconvenienced and to do God’s will regardless of the personal cost to Himself.

... Application

To be an authentic Christ follower requires us to cut lose our self-centered determination to be in charge of our life.

Mark 8:34-38 (nlt)

To take up the cross means that we take our stand for the Lord Jesus no matter what it costs.

These three qualities John displayed captured Jesus’ attention.
Jesus admired John’s spirit of courage and his heart of compassion and his outstanding commitment to Jesus’ purpose in his life.