

LOVEST THOU ME

JOHN 21:15-19

Text: John 21:15-17

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¹⁵ So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. ¹⁶ He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. ¹⁷ He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Introduction:

1. THE PERSON ASKING THE QUESTION

A. He is a Knowing Savior

John 21:15

¹⁵ So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

The Lord never asks a question for an answer, but rather for a confession.

B. He is a Kind Savior

He is not beating Peter with a rod for his failures but He is caring for him, talking with him, being kind to him.

C. He is a Keeping Savior

2. THE PERSON WHOM THE QUESTION WAS ASKED

Peter had failed in denying knowing the Lord, forsaken his calling from the Lord, and had drew the other disciples away from their calling as well.

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, lovest thou me more than these.

Although Peter had sinned, he was a saved man.

Some ask the question, can a saved man sin? Well, we know the answer, for we see it in many of the Bible characters. We know, because we sin also.

BUT WHY DID PETER SIN?

A. Pride

Luke 22:33

³³ And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

Peter was resting not in the ability of Jesus but resting in his own ability. And that is bad.

B. Prayerlessness**Luke 22:40-46**

⁴⁰ And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. ⁴¹ And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, ⁴² Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. ⁴³ And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴ And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵ And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶ And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

Our Christian life is no stronger than our prayer life. It is either weak or strong.

C. People**Luke 22:55**

⁵⁵ And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

3. THE PERSONALITY OF THE QUESTION

Three times Peter had denied Him, now three times Jesus give him a chance to reaffirm his love toward Him.

Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.

A. This was a Revealing Question

John 21:17

¹⁷ He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

By this I mean, this question revealed Peter's love toward Him.

Do you love Me more than these: Jesus strangely asks Peter to compare his love for Him with that of the other disciples. It is possible that "these" refers to the fish and a fisherman's life. Jesus could be asking Peter if he is willing to give up fishing again to follow Him.

B. This was a Requiring Question

John 21:17

¹⁷ He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest

all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

If you love someone you want to fellowship with that person. Peter had jumped out of the boat to walk on the water in fellowship with Jesus. Don't tell Jesus you love Him and don't want his presence. Don't tell Jesus, you love Him, and you will not serve Him.

Peter is told to feed "my lambs", v. 15, these are the "little ones." Then, he is told to feed "my sheep.", v. 16. These would be those who are more mature. The point is clear. Jesus expected Peter to communicate the mind of God to all ages.

The main thing is that if you love someone, you will do something toward them or for them. LOVE REQUIRES SOMETHING