

Title: Do You Love Jesus?

Text: John 21:15-25

Will you take your Bibles and turn to John chapter 21 as we wind-up our study of this wonderful 4th Gospel. You know, I think it is because I am getting older, but I became a little sentimental this past week to realize that we were going to end John. Some of you might think: PRAISE THE LORD, WE ARE FINALLY OUT-OFF THAT BOOK...

But, I want to tell you, it's been one of the greatest studies of my life. And I can tell you this: I love Jesus a lot more because of this study. And because of that, it has been worth it.

John chapter 21 beginning with Vs 15. Our topic: DO YOU LOVE JESUS?

(READ JOHN 21:15-25)

### Prayer

This is a most fascinating passage. (2C) IT IS DEALING WITH DISCIPLESHIP. It is just full of tremendous material, especially as Jesus examines Peter's relationship to Himself. And in application, I trust you will examine your relationship to Jesus. DO YOU LOVE JESUS?

(1 ) Now, first of all, let's look at the words that are used in this passage.

There are two basic words that are translated "LOVE.

Notice, please, in Vs 15, 16, and 17 Jesus ask Peter a question: DO YOU LOVE ME. And in the first and second question Jesus used the Greek word "AGAPA, which is simply translated "LOVE"

It is a great word for love. It is the love found in John 3:16, "For God so loved the Word that He gave his only begotten son."

It is the love that is found in Ephesians 5:25, "Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church."

It is the same word found in I John 4:7, "God is love and love is out-off God.

It is the same word used in I John 4:11 when we are told to love one another. It is a very important word *for love*

The Word, Agapa, basically means: "a concern for the well being of someone else with no thought of what you will receive." It is a word which means "to give, rather than to receive." It is a word of sacrifice. ~~So, that is the word for "LOVE"~~ *Do You Love Me* *SACRIFICE* *is the word* that Jesus used in question one and two.

Now, the third time Jesus ask Peter, DO YOU LOVE ME?, He changed the word to "Phileo". He didn't use the word "Agapa". He used the Greek word "Phileo". This word means "friendship".. "companionship." *Brotherly love*

*and* Wives are told to love their husbands in this manner in the book of Titus. Now, Jesus changed the word for emphases, which you will understand in a moment.

*Now*, When Peter answered Jesus he always used the word "Phileo". Peter never answered Jesus with the word "agapo". Just "phileo", ~~which means brotherly~~ *I* Peter said, "I love you with a deep friendship and companionship. And I believe Peter meant what he said. Even when Peter denied Jesus, he still had this deep love for Jesus. And so Peter answered Jesus with the kind of love that he understood. *I love you with a deep friendship* ~~He didn't, at this point, understand the depth of what Jesus was asking. But he did love him.~~

*Now I personally believe that* ~~Now, so that you might understand why~~ Jesus used the word "Agapa", in those first two questions ~~because of~~ *Veses* 18 and 19. In Vs 18-19, Jesus predicted the death of Peter. And at the heart of the meaning of the word "agapa" is the concept of sacrifice. And the one thing that was missing in Peter's life, which is so often missing in our life, is the sacrifice part of love.

For example: We read in I John 3:16.. "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

The word "life" in that verse is the word for "soul or personality." *PHILE 2* ~~He~~ laid down his personality for us, and we ought to lay down our personal desires and wants for our brethren.

*understood* When we say we love someone with Agapa love we are sacrificing our time and talent and desires and money for the one we say we love. And Peter had not ~~seen~~ that kind of love. And the supreme price that Peter was going to pay in order to see it, was his death.

I believe in the content of this chapter, what Jesus is referring to is the FISH. DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THE OCCUPATION OF FISHING?

Because back in Vs 3 Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing." The whole point of this chapter was fishing. When Jesus invites them to come and dine, in Vs 12, he served fish. And Vs 15 says, "So when they had finished breakfast," that is, they had finished eating the fish. Now, Peter, do you love me more than these fish. Do you love me more than this whole means of livelihood.

And in application Jesus is asking us <sup>The same thing</sup>...HERE, DEAR FRIENDS, IS THE MAIN ISSUE OF DISCIPLESHIP...Do you love me more than your job?....

Now, you can apply this to all areas of life. Do you love me more than your MONEY...OR YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY..OR YOUR WANTS AND DESIRES..WHEN SOMEONE SAYS SOMETHING EVIL AGAINST YOU...OR WHATEVER... When all of that happens, now, christian, do you love Jesus apart <sup>and almost all</sup> ~~from~~ that?

You see, that is the issue of discipleship. That is the issue that Jesus is confronting Peter. In this case it is his livelihood. But, it can apply to all areas of life. DO YOU LOVE JESUS? ARE YOU WILLING TO SACRIFICE EVERY MEANS OF VESTIAGE FOR HIM? *That is the issue* OR Do you Love Jesus With a Fanciness OR Do you Love Him With Agape - Socratic

You see, Peter was being challenged for ministry. And he had to face the issue of LOVE. The reason why some of us can not make that descision is the same reason Peter was having a hard time making. DO YOU LOVE ME, SAID JESUS, MORE THAN THIS WHOLE MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD? DO YOU REALLY LOVE ME, PETER? Because Jesus was going to call upon Peter to leave it, completely, and to walk by faith that God would meet his needs. Now, are we ready for that? <sup>TO Serve Jesus</sup>

The whole point here is discileship. And that is indicated by the command that Jesus gave him each time: TEND MY LAMBS..SHEPHERD MY SHEEP..TEND MY SHEEP. SHEEP.

Now, there is a difference in these two words "tend" and "shepherd."

\* Not Pastors - B. Unger

The word "tend" means "to feed." It means to give someone food to eat.

Nothing else is involved. It just means to feed someone.

But, the word "shepherd" has the idea of caring for ~~all~~ the needs of the sheep. There is a difference between giving something to the sheep to eat; and taking care of all their needs. When you shepherd the sheep you often use the "rod" to keep them in line. It involves discipline. When you care for the sheep you care for them at night. You put them into the fold to protect them from the wolves.

But, when you ~~just~~ give them food, which is the first word Jesus used, it is just giving them food at meal times. So, Jesus said, in Vs 15, I want you to give my lambs something to eat.

But notice, Jesus changed the word to "sheep" in the last two questions. NOW, WHY DID HE DO THAT?

Because, dear friends, there is a connection, spiritually, to this whole passage. In the first 14 verses of this chapter, we have taught to us the principle of evangelism. Catching fish is talking about winning people to Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

But, when we come to Vs 15 and following, Jesus is talking about discipleship. Jesus is challenging Peter, as well as each of us. And the first thing is to give food to the new converts that you have won. The little lambs. Not the sheep, but the little lambs. GIVE THEM FOOD.

The greatest need that a new convert has, according to <sup>Jesus</sup> ~~I~~ John, is to be feed. And the challenge to Peter and to us is, DO YOU REALIZE THE MINISTRY THAT I WANT YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN...I WANT YOU TO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS. AND THEN I WANT YOU TO FEED THOSE YOU ARE WINNING TO CHRIST.

The basic reason why people do not grow in the Lord is because they don't get feed. This is one of the biggest problems in the church, today. People are not being taught the PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S WORD. <sup>Hear Sermons - Hear Thought</sup> Many people come to the Lord, but they never get grounded in the Word of God. And so for years we go on as spiritual babies. We never grow up in the Lord. And Jesus says, the basic need is food. FEED MY LAMBS. *Teaching The Word of God.*

In I Peter 2:2 it says, "like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the Word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation."

Jesus was instructing Peter, "If you really love me, more than these, you will get busy with feeding <sup>people</sup> the principles of God's Word. And this applies not only to the pastors of a church, but also to Sunday School teachers, and all members as they deal with people.

Now, when he comes to the second statement, he changes and says "shepherd my sheep." In other words, Peter, it is going to take a lot more than just giving them food. You need to care for them. We have a responsibility to care for one another. To really care for the brethren.

Then he ended his discussion in Vs 17 by saying, "Guess what? The sheep, also, need to be feed. After they get out-off the little lamb stage, they still need food in order to grow into mature and secure believers. <sup>I Hope I will Go to Heaven.</sup>

So, in verses 1-14, we see <sup>The principle of evangelism</sup> ~~how Christ invited them to come and dine.~~ Inviting people to come to Christ. But, beginning with Vs 15, we have this whole idea of discipleship...feeding and causing spiritual growth in the life of the believer. We have this responsibility.

The example of a pool of water is so true. If a pool of water has an inlet but no outlet it becomes polluted. And if it has an outlet but no inlet it runs dry. My friends, we need both. We need to be feed the WORD OF GOD. And we need to witness <sup>witnessing</sup> and minister to others. You should come to church to be feed. That is why you need your Bibles. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Then you should go forth from church, the dinner table, to witness and share Christ with people.

(2 ) Now, secondly, in Vs 16 when Jesus ask Peter the question DO YOU LOVE ME, He wanted to know what Peter thought of himself. Because Jesus said very simply, DO YOU LOVE ME?

First, do you love me more than these fish? Secondly, do you love me. And the emphasis is on the "ME". And the third time when Jesus changed the word "love" to "friend" I believe He was deliberately going into the heart of Peter and trying, as it were, to get that cancer out of his life. Peter was not yet willing to sacrifice. And that was evidenced at the cross. So, Jesus changed the word and said, "Peter, just let me ask you this." Vs 17. "are you fond of me. Are you really my friend.

You see, real friends will not leave one another in times of stress or crisis. Jesus was actually getting back to the back to the Agapa love by using the word Phileo. Because in the book of Proverbs, "a friend will never leave his friend in the hour of trouble. A friend is better than a relative. He sticks closer than a brother." And so Jesus was actually getting back to the problem again in Peter's life. Are you really my friend? Then why did you do what you did? Do you really love me? *Do you Love Jesus Then why do Bare of the things you do.*

The fact is that Peter loved himself and his own interest. And Jesus was really working on him in this regard about his love for him.

(3) There is another thing that strick me. In Vs 15,16 and 17, after Jesus ask Peter, DO YOU LOVE ME? Peter responded, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Have you ever done that? I have. In fact, it is sort of funny.

*out*  
I go around telling the Lord things he already knows. I do it all the time I inform Him what I am going to do today, which He already knows. I tell him things all the time that I know He already knows. And it kind of makes me laugh. ~~WHY DO WE DO THAT?~~

And here is Peter, "Lord, you know that I love you. You know that I am your friend." And that is why the last time Jysus said, "Oh, are you a friend? Friends don't leave one another in times of need.

And that dear friends, is why Peter was grieved. Because he knew at that moment that he was not really even a friend of Jesus. And yet, he said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I am your friend. I love you."

*in*  
I think Peter is acting like many of us. We say what we mean alright. But, we have never paid the price of it. I think it is good for you to tell the Lord that you love Him. But, one day God will ask you to pay the price of that love. Your job, your business, your interest, your time, your money, something. He will ask you to sacrifice. Then you will know..Oh, Jesus knows alright.. But He will give you a test to prove it to you.

( ) And the test that Jesus gave to Peter is found in Vs 18 and 19. And this test involves the imperative of discipleship.

Jesus said in Vs 18, "When you were younger, you clothed yourself, and went where ever you wanted to go. But, I want to tell you that if you start following me, Peter, that is not going to happen anymore."

Dear friends, discipleship always involves a cost. And Jesus indicated to Peter that He was going to die. And the text says in Vs 19 that by his death he is going to glorify God.

This reminds me of what Paul said in Philipians chapter 1 verses 20-21. "According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Jesus said to Peter, "You are going to glorify me by dying and paying the supreme price of discipleship."

I wonder, how I would react if right now I had that divine knowledge- I wonder, if God told me that I was going to die, <sup>for him</sup> how would I react? I wonder how you would react?  
*GOLF JACK - Heave*

Imagine telling someone, "You are going to die, stretching forth your hands. Peter did die, by the way, by crucifixion. And he was crucified upside down."

And then there is something else that I find interesting of Peter. And that is his concern of others in light of what Christ wanted! <sup>His Life</sup> You see, the reason we do some of the things we do is that we compare ourselves with others. If they are worse than we are, we sort of have a good feeling. I am not as bad as so and so. And if we are better than they are we also have pride. And we get complacent. After all I am doing more than he or she is doing.

Peter had that problem. That is why he said in Vs 21, "Lord, what about this man." It reminds me again of Isaiah being called by God. "Whom shall I send. And who will go for me." And Isaiah said, "HERE AM I. SEND MY SISTER!!!! No..Here am I, send me."

Maybe you have sat in a service and God has spoken to your heart and you have thought: "I wonder if God wants me to teach that class?" And then your next thought is: "Oh, someone will volunteer".

If God is asking you, today, do you love me? he is asking sacrifice. That no matter <sup>what</sup> He is asking me to do in my life, I am willing to do it. I am willing to pay that price. And we cannot let what others are doing effect us. God will take care of that. Like Vs 22 says.. "WHAT IS THAT TO YOU: FOLLOW ME.

The commitment Jesus wants from us is stated very clearly. Vs 19 says.. FOLLOW ME! And in Vs 22 Jesus makes is stronger. YOU, FOLLOW ME.

Do you understand? What Jesus wants from us is our commitment. And I believe that the Bible is very clear. If we love Him, we will follow Him.

~~So, the big question.~~ DO YOU LOVE JESUS?

*To The Point of Sacrifice*

Let us close with Prayer

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