

From Hearing to Doing

"When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?'" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶*Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."* ¹⁷*The third time He said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."* ¹⁸*I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."* ¹⁹*Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to him, "Follow me!"*

²⁰*Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?")* ²¹*When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"* ²²*Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."* ²³*Because of this, the rumour spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"*

²⁴*This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.* ²⁵*Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.* - John 21:15-25

In this Series, We Have Learned That...

There is a beginning and ending to everything. We need to welcome changes and look for the opportunities they provide.

Some Background

1. This story takes place along the shores of the Sea of Galilee.
2. Jesus and the seven disciples have finished breakfast and Jesus and Simon Peter take a walk to talk privately.
3. Jesus and Simon Peter have already had a private meeting since the resurrection. What happened?
"...and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.'" - Luke 24:34
"...and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve." - 1 Corinthians 15:5

Do You Love Me?

1. Jesus asked a question that was to determine Simon's intent for the future. The question, which was asked three times, was to help Peter see his past life and the one to which he was called.
"When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?'" - John 21:15
2. Jesus changes the analogy from fish to sheep. Why?
"Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.'" - John 21:15, 16, 17

3. The question is asked three times in three ways:

"When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?'" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶*Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."* ¹⁷*The third time He said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."* - John 21:15-17

	First	Second	Third
Name	Simon, son of John	Simon, son of John	Simon, son of John
Comparison	Fish, boats	-	-
Love	agapao	agapao	phileo
Response	phileo	phileo	phileo
Verb	feed	lead	feed
Nouns	Little lambs	sheep	sheep

4. For Simon Peter, the results of following Christ would be to glorify God with a martyr's death.
"I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹*Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to him, "Follow me!"* - John 21:18-19
5. Peter's response was so typical of many people: he wanted to know what would happen to John. Jesus told Peter to worry only about himself.
"Jesus answered, 'If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?'" - John 21:22
6. Because of the way Jesus answered Peter, the disciples misunderstood again and a rumour started, saying that John would never die. This, of course, was false.
"If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?" - John 21:22

The Lessons We Learn

1. The question for every believer is, "Do you love Jesus Christ?"
2. The measure of our love is the comparison, "more than these."
3. The proof of our love for Christ is what we do.
"If you love me, you will obey what I command." - John 14:15
4. The joy of our love is to follow Christ.
*"If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? **You must follow me.**"* - John 21:22
5. The aim of our love is to help others know Christ.

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