



DO YOU LOVE ME?

December 2016

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

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

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This conversation took place at Tiberius (Lake Galilee), after Jesus had risen from the dead. Peter and other disciples were fishing when Jesus appeared on the beach and invited them to join Him for the breakfast He was cooking.

Three times Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him. Why? Why three times?

Jesus did not doubt that Peter loved Him, but wanted Peter to affirm his love again after the three times he had denied knowing Him when He had faced His death. He repeated the question for Peter's own good so Peter would no longer have to feel guilty about what he had done. Jesus wanted Peter to feel confident as His true disciple.

Christ asks us that same question. If we want to feed God's Word to His people, He wants us to be confident that we love Him and that we truly want to be His disciples.

Only when we love God will we be able to instill that love in others. Ask Him to fill your heart with His love and to help you share it with others. If you ask this in all earnestness, He will do that for you. I believe it's one prayer God loves to answer.

Jesus said, *"If you love me, keep my commands."* (John 14:15)

He asks us: "Do you love me?" "Feed my sheep."

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