

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

May 18, 2022

John 21: 15 - 25

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. **18** Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not. **19** This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me. **20** Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? **21** Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? **22** Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. **23** Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? **24** This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. **25** And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

Sherri began our study tonight with verses 15 through 17. Then Pastor Tom continued as we finished up the Gospel of John.

Verses 15 - 17

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.

*These verses are another example of the number correlations that God specifically designed into His word. Every word and every number used in the Bible are precious to God and inspired by God.

*So it is not by chance that Jesus addresses Peter 3 times while they ate dinner by the fire. Peter fully knew that he had denied Jesus 3 times the night before the crucifixion. So the numbers match.

[To better understand the 1st question Jesus asks just add a word at the end...*Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these men?*]

| Address | Jesus' word use | Peter's word use |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 1st Verse 15 | Love = agape Lambs = young believers | Love = philios Know = intellect |
| 2nd Verse 16 | Love = agape Sheep = mature believers | Love = philios Know = intellect |
| 3rd Verse 17 | Love = philios Sheep = mature believers | Love = philios Know = knowledge gained through experience |

Agape love is a deeper, spiritual kind of love while *philios* is more casual, brotherly type love. In the 3rd address, Jesus meets Peter at his level of

understanding about this love He is asking about. Peter is actually getting upset by Jesus' repeated question. This may have been a holy conviction. Note the change in Peter's response in the 3rd address: He doesn't just tell Jesus he *knows* about His love in his head, but that he has *experienced Jesus' love*. This could be the moment that Peter connected his 3 denials with the 3 opportunities Jesus gave to Peter to make amends. Jesus met Peter where he was at, inadequacies and all.

[He did the same in other examples: David, the shepherd boy; Moses, the reluctant leader; a boy's lunch fed 5000; plain water turned to wine; empty nets became full] Amazingly, the same goes for us as well!

The terms for the lambs and sheep reflect Jesus' identity of being the Good Shepherd from John 10:11. And now Jesus is preparing Peter to be the 'gatekeeper' of the church/flock soon to be developed at Pentecost. Lambs need to be nurtured with milk, easy food/lessons. But older sheep need guided and prodded to places where they can find and chew on their own food/ Scripture lessons.

Verses 18 and 19

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not. 19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

*Verily, verily = pay attention! Jesus is now explaining to Peter what is going to happen to him when he accepts the leadership of the church to come. He won't be like a child, doing as he pleased. Someone else will dress him and tell him where to go. But Jesus commands Peter to follow Him. Peter was not even strong enough to stick up for Jesus in front of a young maiden girl. Yet he will be strong enough to give up his own life for Jesus and be crucified in years to come. Peter, though, will remain humble: he requested to be crucified upside down because he was not worthy to die the same way Jesus did.

Verses 20 and 21

Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? 21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

*Peter is asking about John, what will he do in the future? Was he comparing himself to John? Do we compare ourselves to others? Well, yes. And why? Insecurity, justifying ourselves, putting blame on someone else? All could be reasons. We all have our cross to bear and your cross is quite different from mine.

Verses 22 and 23

Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. 23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

[In case anyone else was confused about these verses, here they are from the "Easy To Read Version".]

20 Peter turned and saw the follower Jesus loved very much walking behind them. (This was the follower who had leaned against Jesus at the supper and said, "Lord, who is it that will hand you over?") **21** When Peter saw him behind them, he asked Jesus, "Lord, what about him?"

22 Jesus answered, "Maybe I want him to live until I come. That should not matter to you. You follow me!"

23 So a story spread among the followers of Jesus. They were saying that this follower would not die. But Jesus did not say he would not die.

He only said, "Maybe I want him to live until I come. That should not matter to you."

*Jesus is saying to Peter, 'Don't tell me my business! I'm the boss, I'm in charge, not you!' Someone else put it like this: If you want to be the captain, you have to go to captain school!

*Be careful not to be praying for your own will, but for God's will in all situations. When we don't see results from our prayers quickly, we easily give up on them. Don't give up on them! Draw the circle!

Verses 24 and 25

This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. 25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

*John was there and saw all these things happen. He was a first-hand witness to Jesus' life and death, resurrection and promises! So he should know all the other things which Jesus did also and attested that the whole world could not hold the books that could be written about Jesus. Yet John was the author of not only this Gospel account, highlighting Christology, but also 3 other epistle letters (1 John, 2 John and 3 John) and the book of Revelation! He certainly added richly to the world of books about Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

AMEN!

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love!

May the Lord watch between me and thee

While we are absent one from the other.

Thank you, Pastor Tom, for leading us on the 3 year journey through the Gospel of John.