

## Do You Love Me?

In the good book we're told how to the saints of old, Jesus said, Go feed My sheep. (**Lovest Thou Me More than These? Songs of the Church No. 330 Clyde Williams and Robt. E. Arnold**). In **John 21:15-17** Jesus asked Peter 3 times if he did indeed love the Lord.

Thinking about the events here before Jesus ascended into heaven, He asked Peter "Do You Love Me?" In a moment Peter was asked if he loved the Lord more than those with him. Did not Peter already show enough of his love for the Lord? This question was asked by Jesus 3 times, do you think it was of some sort of importance? This speaks volumes about the Lord asking us this same question today. In fact, as you examine the Bible you see a theme of the subject of love.

Peter made great strides to follow the Lord. He dropped his livelihood to follow the Lord (**Mark 1:16-20**). He was in fact a fisherman along with other disciples and they left their boats and began to follow the Lord. Didn't Peter show it enough here?

He even made great strides in protecting the Lord. Peter in fact did not want the Lord to go and suffer the things he must endure for all. In fact, Peter was willing to stop this from happening. It came to the point where he was told to get behind me Satan (**Mark 8:33**). He was not mindful of the things of the God. He still did not understand fully at this point what the Lord needed to do. Even at the point of Jesus being betrayed, Peter continued to defend the lord cutting off the ear of Malchus. Didn't Peter show his love here for the Lord?

Jesus in asking this three times to Peter gave a response each time, "Feed My lambs, Tend My sheep, Feed My Sheep." Peter was instrumental in taking care of the flock of the Lord. It was Peter at Pentecost who fed the lambs the Word of God. He fed them the pure milk of the word (**I Peter 2:1-3**). Peter also tended to the flock. Those that were in need they distributed to those who had need. He in fact helped choose men of good reputation in Acts 6 to fulfill tending to the physical need of the people. Peter also continued to tend to the people by teaching them the word of God. Peter did what he could for the cause of Christ. Notice his writing concerning love in **I Peter 4:7-9**.

We may ask the question if you and I love the Lord. So, in answering this I must know what is expected of me to love the Lord. I am to love Him in fact with everything I have to offer (**Mark 12:30**). I am to love Him with my heart, mind, soul, and strength. There is no substitution for this. I am also to show this love to my neighbor. Who is my neighbor you may ask? Anyone we encounter! I am also to continue to keep the commandments of the Lord (**John 14:15**). If I genuinely love the Lord, then I know how to keep His commandments and I also know that His commandments are not impossible for me to do (**Matthew 7:14**). These commandments are not burdensome for me to follow and obey (**I John 5:3**).

I am to keep the Word of God (**I John 2:5**). I know that if I keep His Word then I am with the Lord. This is where I need to be. This is where I can succeed in life. We are part of His kingdom!

Now, after understanding what is needed of me to show my love for the Lord, the next question is will I share the Good News with others? God loved us enough that he gave us Jesus Christ as a sacrifice for our sins (**Hebrews 2:17**). God showed His love in that even in our sin God has given us hope (**John 3:16**).

Do we love the Lord enough to do what he commanded of us (**Mark 16:15-16**). We are told to go and preach the gospel to everyone. That he who is willing to believe and is baptized will be saved. We are also told to teach them of the things that Jesus has commanded (**Matthew 28:18-20**).

We again examine Peter and Jesus. Peter was told to Feed and Tend the Flock. In preaching we are feeding those with the Word. We are feeding them in hopes they can taste that the Lord is gracious to all. In teaching we tend to the flock. Helping them continue to grow and helping with whatever needs some and all may come across. We are to continue helping meet the needs of brethren. Teaching and helping all continue to grow. Also meeting physical needs (**Matthew 25:34-40**).

We meet many. Do we share the good news with everyone we encounter? If we do love our neighbor, then we will share with them the hope that is within us or the hope that needs to be within us. A kind word goes far. An example helps show others the way (**Romans 12:1-2**). Let us do what we can with love and sharing with others the living hope that needs to be within us all provided by Jesus Christ (**I Peter 1:3**)