



Talk it Over

PASTOR LYLE – JOHN 21:15-22 — 04/27/25

KEY SCRIPTURE

John 21:15-22

15 After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.”

“Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him.

16 Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.”

“Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said.

17 A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.

18 “I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don’t want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.”

20 Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?” 21 Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?”

22 Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.”

START DISCUSSING

READ JOHN 21:15-22

THIS PASSAGE REVEALS STEPS OF RESTORATION BETWEEN PETER AND JESUS BUT ALSO THE CHARACTER OF A DISCIPLE. LET’S DISCUSS HOW IT RELATES TO US.

Step 1: Love Christ (John 21:15–17)

Reflection: Jesus asks Peter three times, “Do you love Me?”—mirroring Peter’s three denials. Why do you think Jesus emphasized love as the starting point for Peter’s restoration? How does this connect to our own relationship with Jesus?

Group Insight: Jesus entrusts Peter with caring for His “lambs” and “sheep.” What does this tell us about how loving Christ leads to serving others? How can we practically “tend” or “shepherd” those around us?

Step 2: Sacrifice for Christ (John 21:18–19)

Reflection: Jesus predicts Peter’s martyrdom, showing that true commitment involves sacrifice. How does knowing Peter’s future (crucifixion) change the way you view his earlier failure in denying Jesus?

(Highlights God’s redemptive plan and Peter’s transformation; see Luke 9:23.)

Personal Application: Jesus says following Him may lead to places we “do not wish to go.” What are some “sacrifices” (big or small) you’ve faced or might face in following Jesus? How does Peter’s story give you confidence to embrace them?

Step 3: Follow Christ (John 21:20–23)

Reflection: Peter compares himself to John, and Jesus redirects him to focus on his own calling: “You follow Me!” Why do you think comparison is so tempting, and how does it distract us from following Jesus?

Key Takeaway: Peter’s restoration shows that Jesus is faithful to forgive and restore us, no matter our failures (1 John 1:9). Our response is to love Him, sacrifice for Him, and follow Him without distraction.

Challenge: Each day this week, identify one way to:

- Express your love for Christ (e.g., through prayer, worship, or serving).
- Make a small sacrifice for Him (e.g., giving up time, comfort, or a habit).
- Follow Him without comparing (e.g., focusing on your unique calling).