

“Do you Love Me”

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Opening: Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. Do you remember when Jesus rebuked Peter for ignorantly encouraging Jesus to forsake the cross? At that moment Peter learned eternally valuable lessons that would shape and form Him for the work Jesus had called Him to complete. Today don't be afraid of God's corrections and also don't be afraid to make mistakes, God took all of these into account when He called you.

Key Scripture Matthew 16:15-27

15“But what about you?” Jesus asked. **“Who do you say I am?”** **16**Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” **17**Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven. **18**And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. **19**I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” **20**Then He admonished the disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Christ. **21**From that time on Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. “Far be it from You, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to You!”
23 But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me. For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”
24 Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
26 What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?
27 For the Son of Man will come in His Father’s glory with His angels, and then He will repay each one according to what he has done.

Key Point: Our growth and development is of great importance and concern to Jesus. He will use every moment to challenge, mold, shape and form us for the work He has called each of us to.

- 1. Peter gets it right - You are the Christ the Son of the Living God**
 - a. God intended for Peter to receive the revelation of Jesus being the Christ. Jesus said it was the Father that gave Peter the revelation of the true identity of Christ.**
 - b. Peter couldn’t really take any credit for the revelation.**

c. The credit, the glory and the praise belong to Jesus. As different as a sheep is to the Shepherd so are we vastly different to Jesus. Jesus was clothed with human flesh. It took God's revelation to reveal Jesus for who He really was.

2. Peter Gets it wrong – Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke Him

a. Only a few moments after Peter gets it right, He gets it wrong by rebuking the Son of God.

b. Was it pride that caused Peter to rebuke Jesus?

c. "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me. For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

d. We struggle with the things that God plans for our lives the same as Peter did. We often look at situations and circumstance through the lens of our limited understanding of who God is and what His plan entails for our lives.

e. Peter became "familiar" with Jesus. One of the greatest limitations we have to following Jesus is our tendency to become comfortable with the limited understanding we have with

Jesus and mistake our partial revelation of Christ for completeness.

f. We have so much to learn about the purposes and ways of God.

g. **Life Lesson:** Do not be quick to judge a circumstance by your earthly understanding of how it must happen. Wait and listen on the Lord and trust His plan and purposes. God knows what and why He is doing things.

3. **We are a word from Heaven.**

a. **Isaiah 55: 9-11** [9](#)“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. [10](#)For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return without watering the earth, making it bud and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, [11](#)so My word that proceeds from **My mouth will not return to Me empty,** but it will accomplish what I please, and **it will prosper where I send it.**

b. We are all God’s word sent into time, for specific purposes, seasons. We are sent with instructions, graces, and a desired will and purpose for our life.

c. Key Point: Have you ever wondered why God sends a sprinkle on a hot summers day instead of a downpour? Me too.

d. Often God sends a precursor of greater things to come before He sends the fullness. The precursor was to prepare the wineskin for the new wine. Get ready when you see the cloud forming, learn to move in faith before you see the fullness of what was promised.

e. God's will and our will are not always the same, but God will still keep working, to cause our hearts to align with His.

4. Peter is not where He thinks He is

a. Matthew 26: 31 - 35 Then Jesus *said to them, "You will all [m]fall away because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' 32 But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." 33 But Peter replied to Him, "Even if they all [n]fall away because of You, I will never fall away!" 34 Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." 35 Peter *said to Him, "Even if I have

to die with You, I will not deny You!” All the disciples said the same thing as well.

- b. Peter thought He was ready for God to use His life. Jesus had other plans.
- c. Peter had a will but God knows how to shape a vessel for His purposes. Peter’s failures were used to break the heart so God could reshape it into a heart of gold.
- d. God knows what is really in each of our hearts here this morning. There are no masks we can wear that He does not see past.
- e. We all have great desires and ambitions. Some of these desires are Godly and heaven sent, but like Peter we are not all ready for those dreams and desires to be fulfilled.
- f. Key Point: It is in the moments, of change, discomfort, correction, the unexpected that our lives move from being rigid to fluid. Like a master potter adds water to the formed clay, God’s changes in our life are meant to soften us so He can mold us.

5. If you love Him, let Him

- a. Don't back away from God during seasons of change
- b. Don't cast away your confidence in God because you don't understand what He is doing
- c. Don't stop doing the good you have planned because of the perceived failure.
- d. Let Jesus use these moments to reveal what is in your heart and how you can continue to grow through unanticipated moments.
- e. Each of us is called to feed His sheep in this hour.
- f. Satan would love to give you an excuse, an out, a reason to reject the nature God is forming in you. Refuse to give into His accusations, and trust the God of promise.
- g. John 21:17 Jesus asked a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" Peter **was deeply hurt** that Jesus had asked him a third time, "Do you love Me?" "Lord, You know all things," he replied. "You know I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.
- h. The wound is not meant to destroy you but to prepare you. Rejoice, that God is working in this place.

Conclusion: Pendleton First, you are in the masters' hands. Trust His process even when you don't understand. Do not back away from what God is doing in this place. Greater things are on the horizon. The best is yet to come. Stay the course, prepare your hearts, prepare your soil, the new oil, new wine and abundant rain are coming.