



## 2020 How to Have Your Best Year Yet! *The Essential Priority*

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### Message to Conversation Guide

#### Key passage

##### John 21:15-17

15 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.”

16 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.”

17 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. NIV, 2011

#### Discussion Questions

1. Discuss this principle as well as the scripture below: *When God’s Kingdom is our primary devotion than everything else in our life comes together when the Lord is not the center of your devotion than everything else is difficult.*

##### Matt 6:33

33 **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** NIV, 2011

2. In order to have our best year yet we need to make Jesus first in our life. Traditional ways of saying this are: Jesus should be Lord of our lives or we need to surrender our life to the Lord. I like to think of this in terms of what do you we love most in our life. Consider this penetrating question: do you love Jesus more than anything else in your life?
3. Making Jesus first in our lives is not something we do once and for all but it is a state of our heart that needs to be maintained. Discuss this principle and the

implications of the verse below regarding continuing to make Jesus Lord of our lives.

**Col 2:6**

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, **continue to live your lives in him,** NIV, 2011 (also see **Rev 2:4-5**)

4. Jesus isn't calling us to only love one thing but simply to love him more than everything else. How is the underscored in the verses below?

**John 21:15**

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

**Matt 10:37-39**

37 "Anyone who loves their father or mother **more than me** is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter **more than me** is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. NIV, 2011 (Also see **Luke 25:26**)

5. List some of the things that you love in life and consider where your love for Jesus fits in this list.

- Going to the beach
- Your family
- Great food
- Your favorite hobby
- Your Work or Career
- Your Key Possessions

6. Discuss the scriptures below that says that God has provided us to with many things in life to love and enjoy and one of the reasons that we are to love Jesus more than everything else is because he is the one that has given us everything that we enjoy in life.

**1 Tim 6:17**

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, **who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.** NIV, 2011

**James 1:17**

17 **Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,** who does not change like shifting shadows. NIV, 2011

## Concluding Thought:

Making Jesus first in your life is similar to a Keystone Habit (one habit that creates other positive habits). When we make Jesus first it helps us to do better at other things such as being a good parent, spouse, friend or an employer or employee. In other words, making Jesus first helps us to reach our other worthy goals we may have.

