

Feed My Sheep

John 21:15-17; So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son of Jonah*, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son of Jonah*, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son of Jonah*, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

This event is a breakfast by the Sea. 1st of all, this is a significant conversation between Jesus and Peter that occurs after Jesus' Resurrection, during an emotional moment by the Sea of Galilee.

Peter is Hurting, He is Discouraged, He is doing what he walked away from to follow Jesus, and now Jesus is having this emotional moment with Peter at a fire pit cooking breakfast.

(SOME OF US NEEDS THAT EMOTIONAL MOMENT WITH JESUS THIS MORNING)

Just a few days ago, Peter has enough boldness to cut off a man's ear in protecting Jesus and then later on that night, a Roster crows 3 times to show Peter that he would Denied OR could say, Rejected Christ 3 times before the sun would come up.

NOTICE something here; if you hang out with discouraged people, they will pull you down and away from your Ministry. Even if it's a Child of God. Peter took 6 disciples with him.

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Peter

The Apostle Peter may have been the most outspoken of the 12 apostles in Jesus' ministry on earth.

Peter was originally named Simon. Jesus was the One Who changed his name to Peter the Rock.

He was a Galilean fisherman and was the brother of Andrew.

Peter was married. He was also a follower of John the Baptist. Peter was perhaps the very first disciple that Jesus called along with His brother Andrew.

Peter was always putting his foot in his mouth but one thing you could say about Peter was that when Jesus told him and his brother Andrew to **Follow Me**, they simply walked away and left everything they had without a second thought (Luke 5:9-).

Peter was the first to call Jesus the Son of the Living God, the Messiah.

Peter still holds the record for Walking on the Water during a storm.

May hold the record in catching the most fish, twice in his time.

There are 7 recorded miracles that Peter did according to the Bible.

AND Peter was an eyewitness to the many of the 37 miracles that Jesus did and witnessed the Glory along with John and James in the Transfiguration.

Peter was the first one to preach on the day of Pentecost after the coming of the Holy Spirit and he was the first one to proclaim Christ to a Gentile.

He was one of the boldest apostles of all. He willingly suffered persecution, imprisonment, beatings, and even rejoiced at the fact that he was worthy to suffer disgrace for the Lord's sake (Acts 5:41).

From an arrogant, smug, rugged fisherman, a man of thunder, he became a humble, willing, obedient servant of the Lord even to his death. He

rejoiced in that day of his death, knowing that he would be reunited with his beloved Savior.

This was a lifetime of 65 years, of which his last 33 would be devoted to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus.

Why did you tell us this? Because this Man of God on this morning, was discouraged and went back fishing when he should have been out Preaching.

If Peter can get Discourage, I truly believe you can get discourage.

If Peter can leave the ministry for just a little bit, you can fall into the same trap.

BUT if Peter can come back and do what he is called to do, VR Family, so can you.

It is time to arise and Feed the Sheep.

It is time to rise up and do YOUR Ministry.

It is time to get back to your Calling.

WHY? Because your Calling, your Ministry, your Job in the Church is the difference between someone going to Heaven or Hell.

Someone being discouraged or being lifted up.

Going further in the pit or climbing on the Mountain top.

Get this VR Family, don't get lazy now, don't quit down, it is important for you to do you job for the Glory of God. OR SOMEONE ELSE WILL!!

Feed My Sheep

Looking at Sheep; God first compared the Israelites to sheep and later applied that label to all who are called by His name.

God's people are compared to sheep for several reasons.

First, Sheep are one of the few animals that do not have a defense system. Sheep are helpless without a shepherd. The first line in Psalm 23 reflects this truth that God Himself is our Shepherd and Defender:

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

Without the Lord our Shepherd, we are helpless when it comes to Satan attacks.

Second, Sheep are notorious for following the leaders. Any leader, weather they are right or wrong, regardless of how dangerous or foolish they may be. A lot of people, Christian people are extremely gullible and are attracted to charismatic person or churches that promises a shiny new idea. And they go.

Third reason people are compared to sheep in the Bible is that sheep are prone to wander away from the flock. A sheep's only chance of survival is with the flock under the care of a capable shepherd.

Yet sheep become Overconfident, Rebellious, or Distracted, and they Wander away. They see greener grass in the other direction or fail to notice when the flock moves away.

Peter had this tendency in mind when he warned the church to be on the alert because the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour ([1 Peter 5:8](#)).

NOW the Word of God, the Voice of Jesus to Peter and to you and I according to the NKJV, it says 1 time to feed my Lambs, one time to feed my Sheep and one time to Tend my Sheep.

According to the KJV it says all 3 times to Feed my Sheep.

Which one is right. BOTH. It all means the same. Feed the Sheep.

That word FEED means to Feed, tend a flock, provide pasture for, take care of, guide, lead, defend, govern, and shepherd His Lambs, His Sheep.

We have a job today to FEED THE SHEEP. God's sheep. WHY? So we can go and get more sheep. This hit me a while back and I've been thinking about it. Jesus drops in my spirit through a Podcast that Jesus was telling His people, You Feed the Sheep and I'll grow the Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church.

NOW what happen if I'm not Feeding the Sheep? Then the gates of Hell CAN prevail against the Church.

His Will

It is so important to be in the Will of God with everything we do in the Church.

BUT this morning, I want to ask something that I hope will rattle you.

What is more important to you, God's Will in your life or Your Will in your life?

What is more important to you, God's Job for His Ministry, or Your Secular Job? **THINK ABOUT THIS**; one is for just a short time; the other is for ALL ETERNITY.

What is more important to you, half doing what God called you to do, or being sold out to the job you are doing for Him and His Glory.

What is more important to you, leaving the church because my feelings are hurt, or staying in there because I've got a calling on my life that is an Eternal significance.

One thing the enemy will do is try to get our eyes off of what we should be doing and get our eyes on what someone else should be doing. That is what happen to the other 6 disciples. They went fishing with Peter because Peter is Hurt, Disappointed and Discouraged. Now 7 Men of God are fishing, but not for Men.

NOW CHECK THIS OUT; When Peter and Jesus are having this Heart-to-Heart moment. This go to Jesus moment. Peter still has to put his foot in his mouth one more time.

Jesus and Peter are still in the emotional moment. Jesus ask Peter do you love me and Peter answers he does, and this goes on 3 times. To me it seems that moment is about over, and Peter had to ruin the moment.

Look at John 21:18-22. Jesus is talking 1st in verse 18 to Peter; **Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."**

¹⁹ This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

I hope you get this. Jesus is telling Peter there is coming a day, you are not going to do what you want to do, **BUT FOLLOW ME ANYWAY**. Now, look at what Peter does.

²⁰ Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, (talking about the Last Super) and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" This is John.

²¹ Peter, seeing him, (John) said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?"

²² Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

VR Family, we need to catch what Jesus is telling Peter while Peter is still putting his foot in his mouth. Jesus is telling Peter, don't worry about that man, worry about yourself, **you PETER Follow Me**.

AS one man said; This was a powerful and pointed challenge to Peter. Without regard to how Jesus might deal with John or other disciples, Peter had to decide for himself whether or not he would **follow** Jesus.

This is your challenge this morning. WILL YOU FOLLOW JESUS? disciples.

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Church Family, will you Follow Jesus, or will you follow yourself?

If you say, I'm going to Follow Jesus, DO IT AS PETER DID. Peter at this point never went back to do what he did before. He made his mind up after

having that Emotional Moment or that Go to Jesus meeting that he would never go back to what he was.

Peter, from that day forward, kept his Calling. He wouldn't let his Calling leave him. He was a man of God on a mission. Family, you are a Man of God or a Lady of God on a Mission and all of Heaven or Hell depends on you.

So I'll ask you that same question I ask my self that Jesus ask Peter.

Do you love Me more than these?" Then Feed My Lambs.

Do you love Me?" Then Tend My Sheep.

Do you love Me? Then Doug, Anthony, Bruce, Luke, Tyle, will you Feed My Sheep?

If you say yes, then there are 4 things really quick I want you to do.

Start being on Time so you can do your calling.

Start Preparing for your calling.

Start being Focused on your calling.

And start being Disciplined with your calling

Family I'm done, I've preached the Word and the question to you this morning. Did you receive the Word, WILL YOU FOLLOW JESUS AND GET SERIOUS ABOUT IT and Feed the Sheep??