



BOOK *of* JOHN

# ***DO YOU LOVE ME?***

## ***JOHN 21:11-18***

### ***THE BEAUTIFUL RESTORATION OF PETER . . . FROM CONDEMNATION TO COMMENDATION!***

- This entire scene must have stirred Peter's memory and touched his conscience.
- Surely he was recalling that first catch of fish (**Luke 5:1-11**) and perhaps even the feeding of the 5,000 with bread and fish (**John 6**).
- The *"fire of coals"* would have reminded him of the fire where he denied the Lord 3 times. **John 18:18**

## ***THREE INVITATIONS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL***

**The whole plan had been laid out, but Peter had missed it a bit:**

- 1. “Come and see.” John 1:39**
  - 2. “Come and drink.” John 7:37**
  - 3. “Come and dine.” John 21:12**
- They sat on the beach while the Master healed the wounds in their spirit.

## ***COMMUNING WITH JESUS***

It is heaven to be with Jesus. To be alone in the presence of the Master means a new appreciation of:

- 1. *His power.*** He can really catch fish, many of them, anywhere and time, any place; He does the work!
- 2. *His purpose.*** Jesus is the Master. He issues His commands—“Feed my sheep.” We simply do what He asks of us.
- 3. *His person.*** The surpassing joy of service is the glory of being with Him, dwelling in His presence.

## ***GRADUATING THE FISHING ACADEMY***

Since Peter had denied the Lord Jesus publicly 3 times, *Jesus asked him 3 personal questions publicly:*

- Firstly, ***“Do you love Me”*** as you claimed, **“more than these other disciples love Me?”**
- Many commenters point out that, in this conversation, two different words are used for “love.” Important, yes, but not the real key to this passage. Here is why:
- Real Bible-believing Christians are supposed to love one another in both ways—***phileo*** and ***agape***.

## ***CONTINUING THE QUIZ***

- When answering the first two questions, Peter did affirm his *agape* love when he said, “Yes, Lord!” — answering Jesus’ use of *agape*.
- In spite of his faults and failures—***even responding with brotherly love instead of agape love***—Peter did indeed *agape love* the Lord, and he was not ashamed to admit it.
- Peter was to minister both as an evangelist—catching the fish—and a pastor—shepherding the flock.

## ***A THREEFOLD ADMONITION***

- 1. “*Feed My lambs.*”** Make new believers; reach them with His word; share the Gospel.
- 2. “*Tend or shepherd My sheep.*”** Mend, lead, nurture, instruct, bandage, heal, and protect.
- 3. “*Feed My sheep.*”** Make mature saints; take them from milk to meat.

Both the baby lambs as well as the more mature sheep need feeding and leading, and that is the task of the spiritual shepherd—the pastor. **1 Peter 5:2-4**

## ***PETER—FROM FISHERMAN TO SHEPHERD***

- Here is the deal: Once you catch a fish, they become a lamb, then a full-fledged sheep!
- The Holy Spirit equips people to serve as shepherds and gives these “sheepdogs” to churches. **Eph. 4:11**
- It is also true that each individual Christian must help to care for the flock; we fish and wrangle sheep together.
- Jesus loves sheep. The Greek word for “sheep” in **v. 17** means *my precious, dear, much-loved sheep*.

***Graciously, Jesus made Peter a super shepherd!***