



LOVE SO AMAZING

TO STAND THE TEST Jn. 21:9, 15-22

2022 THEME

“By Hook or by Crook”

Jn. 21: Jn. 21:9 As soon then as they were come to land, **they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.**

15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me more than these?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Our theme for 2022 is...

LOVE SO AMAZING



The statement usually implies to accomplish something by any means possible. In the context of this passage it is a message particularly for the Apostle Peter to exchange his focus from fishing to shepherding..

Luke 22:61 And **the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter.** And **Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.**

62 And **Peter went out, and wept bitterly.**

What a devastating memory that Peter was forced to carry. He had denied the Lord three times. The Lord had warned him that he would, but Peter was headstrong and too self-confident to guard against it. A veteran believer of such leadership status, Peter failed.

On the day of Pentecost, the same Apostle stood boldly and proclaimed his loyalty to the Lord Jesus:

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified**, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12 **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

How did the Apostle Peter go from the cowardly denier of Christ unto such a fearless preacher honoring Christ? The answer is in this passage of excruciating “heart surgery” performed on Peter by the “Beloved Physician,” the Lord Jesus Christ. This serious encounter changed the course of Peter’s life. This morning, may we learn some lessons that will also affect our lives.

I. THE COMPROMISE OF A FAITHFUL BELIEVER

A. The Confidence Misguided

- ❖ The Apostle Peter was a very self-confident individual.

Mt. 26:33 Peter answered and said unto him, Though all *men* shall be offended because of thee, yet **will I never be offended.**

34 Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, **thou shalt deny me thrice.**

❖ Too often, Peter was very impetuous, talking before thinking.

Prov. 16:18 **Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**

Jas. 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, **God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**

B. The Confusion Misunderstood

❖ The Apostle Peter did not understand all that was happening around him.

Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, **Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

Jn. 20:9 For **as yet they knew not the scripture**, that he must rise again from the dead.

Jn. 2:22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, **his disciples remembered** that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

C. The Convicted Misery

❖ Spiritual overconfidence leads to confusion and eventual misery.

Luke 22:61 And **the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter.** And **Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.**

62 And **Peter went out, and wept bitterly.**

Jn. 21:3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and **that night they caught nothing.**

Jn. 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? **Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me?**
And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

❖ Peter was deceived, thinking his love for the Savior was true without question.

II. THE CORRECTION OF A FAITHFUL BELIEVER

A. The Confrontation of Affection

Jn. 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me more than these?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

❖ The question by Jesus was for Peter to compare the affection of his heart:

Jn. 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me more than these?**

❖ What are “these?” Are they the fish or the other disciples?

B. The Conviction of Actuality

❖ The second question was focused upon loving the Savior.

Jn. 21:16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me**? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

❖ Love for Christ should precede service for His glory –
“Since you love me, shepherd my sheep by focusing upon feeding them.”

1 Pet. 5:2 **Feed the flock of God** which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, **but willingly**; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

❖ The denial of Christ was threefold; the question of love was threefold:

“...Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me?”

❖ Jesus was laying a foundation that would strengthen Peter in the days to come.

C. The Call and Affirmation

“Love me? Since you do...Feed my lambs.”

“Love me? Since you do...Feed my sheep.”

“Love me? Since you do.....Feed my sheep.”

III. THE COMMITMENT OF A FAITHFUL BELIEVER

A. The Perpetual Challenge

Jn. 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but **when thou shalt be old**, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry *thee* whither thou wouldst not.

19 This spake he, **signifying by what death he should glorify God**. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, **Follow me**.

- ❖ Simon Peter, a veteran believer, needed to be challenged by the Savior, for Pete's sake.
- ❖ The battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil is perpetual until we die.

B. The Personal Commitment

Jn. 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, **Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?**

21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, **Lord, and what *shall* this man *do*?**

22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, **what *is that* to thee? follow thou me.**

- ❖ Peter had a problem trying to figure out what other people's ministries were.
- ❖ Jesus rebuked Peter and told him that was none of his business – Peter's business is a personal commitment to follow Jesus!

C. The Powerful Change

- ❖ After the Resurrection, Peter decided to return to what he knew – fishing.
- ❖ Six other disciples followed Peter's leadership and joined him in the fishing endeavor.

Jn. 21:2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the *sons* of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

Review

- ❖ After the Resurrection, Peter and other disciples went fishing, meanwhile, Jesus built a fire on the shore and prepared them dinner.
- ❖ The very personal confrontation – “... Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas...”
- ❖ The very personal examination – “...**lovest thou me more than these?**”
- ❖ The very personal confrontation – “He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas...”

- ❖ The very personal examination – “...**lovest thou me?**”
- ❖ The very personal confrontation – “He saith to him again the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas...”
- ❖ The very personal, yet, modified examination – “...**lovest thou me?**”
- ❖ The subtle, sorrowful direct answer – “...**Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time,** Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.”
- ❖ The Lord Jesus challenged Simon Peter to self-examination of personal love.
- ❖ The Lord Jesus challenged Simon Peter to “...follow me.”

Conclusion

“By Hook or by Crook.”

Career and life priorities may be the same, but usually they are not. Peter's career as a fisherman changed to be a fishermen of men, which required him to become a spiritual shepherd.

You and I are frail creatures too apt to fail in our devotion to Christ. When we do fail, we must guard against the lies of our adversary, repent, and return unto our first love for Christ.

Col. 3:14 And **above all these things *put on* charity**, which is the bond of perfectness.

15 And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts**, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom**; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And **whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**

The Love of God

Frederick M. Lehman, 1917

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

v. 3 *by* Anonymous/Unknown

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