

Conformed to the Image of Christ: Christ's Post-Resurrection Love!

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.**” 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.**” 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.** (John 21:15-17)

I) How Jesus loved them!

- 1) Jesus studied Scripture with them on the road to Emmaus.
- 2) He comforted, rebuked their lack of faith, and strengthened their faith.
- 3) He commanded disobedient disciples to throw it on the “right side,” to do the obedient thing.
- 4) He served breakfast to those who came back.
- 5) He reinstated His disciples who had failed, especially Peter.
- 6) He instructed them to wait for power from on high, the Holy Spirit.
- 7) He ascended before their eyes to give them hope of His return.

II) How Jesus loved a disciple who failed Him but then returned!

A) Ways Peter failed Jesus!

- 1) He did not stand with Jesus, but stood at a distance.
- 2) He was afraid for his life, did not want to associate with Christ.
(Mathew 26:33)
- 3) He warmed himself and stood with those who opposed Jesus.
(Mark 14:67)
- 4) He denied Jesus three times (Mark 14:66-72)

B) But Peter remembered the word of Jesus!

- “Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.” (Matthew 26:74-75)

III) Ways Jesus loved Peter after he failed!

- 1) Jesus allowed Peter to take back his three denials with three professions of his love! (Romans 10:10)
- 2) Jesus reinstated Peter as His disciple, the rock on which He will build His church! (Matthew 16:18)
- 3) Jesus recommissioned Peter to a specific ministry of feeding and caring His sheep! “Feed My Lamb... Take care of My sheep... Feed My Sheep.” (John 21:15-17)
- 4) Jesus reemphasized that to love Him is to obey Him! (John 14:21)

- Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” (John 14:21)

- “Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.” (John 14:23-24)