

## **SERMON: HOW'S YOUR LOVE LIFE?**

**Sunday, April 19, 2020**

### **Mark 12:30-31**

(30) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. (31) And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

### **John 21:15-17**

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

### **Introduction**

There is a saying in the corporate world: "Some folks need to be fired and others need to be fired up, and a good supervisor knows the difference. Some resignations are accepted with a joyful celebration and others are rejected with a hefty pay raise. A good manager can make the distinction." By his actions Peter had turned in his resignation. He felt unworthy to serve any longer in the ministry. He had failed miserably. He had deserted Jesus, denied Him three times, and warmed his hands at the enemy's fire. He "blew it" at the most critical time. Not only had he let Jesus down; he had also let himself down. He did the very thing he boastfully said he would not do. Despite this monumental failure, Jesus came looking for Peter and the other disciples, because he had much work for them to do. Furthermore, directions had to be given to the apostles before Jesus would ascend back to the father. In light of our querying title of this sermon, let's see how love played the major role in Peter's restoration. Let's see what kind of spiritual love life Peter had.

### **Exposition**

1. A Return to the Past and A Fruitless Night of Fishing  
(Sometimes it is easier to go backwards than to go forward)
2. A Morning Surprise  
(Jesus came looking for the disciples)
3. A Three-Fold Fundamental Simple Question

(A Qualifying Question)  
 (Note what he did not ask Peter)  
 (Jesus only asked, "Do you love me?")  
 ("How's your spiritual love life?")  
 (The all-important question)

4. A Cautious Right Answer  
 (My love life has You, Jesus, at the top and in the center)  
 (Sometimes love is the only thing left)

5. A Gracious Command to Fulfill His Destiny  
 (Jesus did not kick Peter to the Curb)  
 (Jesus is dogmatic about our destinies)  
 (One failure is not an excuse for being a failure)

### **Closing Thoughts**

This event was more than an early morning fish fry. It was the rehabilitation of a soul. Jesus fed the disciples to demonstrate that they are to feed his sheep. The net with one hundred fifty-three fish did not break, because any soul that Jesus truly saves can never be lost. Jesus had to prepare Peter for Pentecost. God is preparing you for something bigger. Do you know what it is? If your spiritual love life is in order God can use you despite failures and limitations. He only wants to know if you truly love him. He wants to know if his love is truly reciprocated. He is not just a God of second chances; He is a God of many chances. The world says, "Three strikes and you are out." God says, "Three strikes and you are not out--you are still in!" Let me close by asking you a question. I am also asking myself the same question. How's your spiritual love life? Do you love Jesus with all your heart, soul, mind and strength? There is no doubt that He loves us. The cross and the empty tomb prove that. Give God glory! Give God all the glory.

### **Related Scriptures**

Deuteronomy 6:4-5  
 Matthew 22: 37-40

### **Theological Notes**

1. In John 21:15, Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me more than these?" When one combines the mood and the tense of the verb it could be surmised that Jesus was pointing at something as He spoke. The "these" could have been the boat and fishing gear. In other words, do you love me more than your former occupation? Jesus could have also pointed at the other disciples. In other words, do you love your buddies more than you love me? With all due respect, there is one interpretation with which I disagree. Some interpret this as an indication that Peter loved Jesus more than the other disciples loved Him and therefore, Peter was given primacy, because of his greater love. Again, I vehemently disagree with this interpretation.

2. Notice what Jesus did not ask Peter.  
He did not ask Peter, "Why did you deny me?"  
He did not ask Peter, "Will you abandon me again?"  
Jesus only asked, "Do you love me?"  
Love is the "common denominator" in the spiritual equation.

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