

*When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly 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 truly 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 (NIV)*

## Loving You

Loving you is not theoretical. Loving you is quite practical. Loving you is not passive. Loving you requires action. This sounds odd, I know. **What do you mean by all of this?** Here is what I mean. I love you. My love for you motivates my desire to do what is pleasing to you. Because I love you, following and serving you is not burdensome to me. It is my delight to go and do what you ask of me, because I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. So, love is active. My love for you is demonstrated by my obeying your commands. Out of my love for you flows all that I will ever do for you. **That is very good.**

Wouldn't it be crazy if I said that I loved you but never did what you asked of me? What kind of love would that be? It would be no kind of love at all. Wouldn't it be silly for me to try to figure out what might be the minimum requirement of loving you? That would not work, not at all. **Why is that?** You know. **Yes, I know. But I want to hear you say it.** You continually take me deeper with you and ask for more from me. It is as if I have many ongoing opportunities to affirm and reaffirm my love for you. Sometimes, it feels as if you are asking, "Will your love for me motivate your desire to do even "this" or "that" for me?" **Guess what. What? It feels that way because that is exactly what I am asking and will keep on asking you.** Sometimes, the "this" or "that" you ask me is scary. **How so?** You ask me to do what I am not able to do. **Why do suppose I do that to you?** You want me to draw nearer to you. You want me to rely more fully on you. You want to do in and through me, what only you can do. **Will you come to know and love and follow and serve me more fully as you rely more completely on me?** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

*Lord, you know I love you. Loving you is passionately motivating my desire to follow and serve you. Obeying your commands is not a burden to me. It is the joy of my heart to go and do what is pleasing to you. Use me in your service. My life is in your hands. Amen*

## **Becoming Like Christ** *Do You Truly Love Me?*

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly 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 truly 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.

NIV

John 21:15-17

## **Becoming Like Christ** *Do You Love Me?*

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep.

NLT

John 21:15-17

## **Becoming Like Christ** *Do You Love Me?*

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

NRSV

John 21:15-17

## **Becoming Like Christ** *Do You Love Me?*

When they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these [others do—with reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion, as one loves the Father]? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You [that I have deep, instinctive, personal affection for You, as for a close friend]. He said to him, Feed My lambs. Again He said to him the second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me [with reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion, as one loves the Father]? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You [that I have a deep, instinctive, personal affection for You, as for a close friend]. He said to him, Shepherd (tend) My sheep. He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me [with a deep, instinctive, personal affection for Me, as for a close friend]? Peter was grieved (was saddened and hurt) that He should ask him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You [that I have a deep, instinctive, personal affection for You, as for a close friend]. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.

AMP

John 21:15-17

## **Becoming Like Christ** *Do You Love Me?*

So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus \*said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He \*said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He \*said to him, "Tend My lambs." He \*said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He \*said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He \*said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." He \*said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, 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, "Tend My sheep.

NASB

John 21:15-17

## **Becoming Like Christ** *Do You Love Me?*

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, 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." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, 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 everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

ESV

John 21:15-17

## **Becoming Like Christ** *Do You Love Me?*

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." 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." 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.

NKJV

John 21:15-17

## **Becoming Like Christ** *Do You Love Me?*

After breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Master, you know I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." He then asked a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Master, you know I love you." Jesus said, "Shepherd my sheep." Then he said it a third time: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, "Do you love me?" so he answered, "Master, you know everything there is to know. You've got to know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.

MSG

John 21:15-17

## **Becoming Like Christ** *Do You Love Me?*

After breakfast Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others?" "Yes," Peter replied, "you know I am your friend." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: "Simon, son of John, do you really love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I am your friend." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. Once more he asked him, "Simon, son of John, are you even my friend?" Peter was grieved at the way Jesus asked the question this third time. "Lord, you know my heart; you know I am," he said. Jesus said, "Then feed my little sheep.

TLB

John 21:15-17

## **Becoming Like Christ** *Do You Love Me?*

When they finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John do you love me more than these?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, 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." A third time he said, "Simon son of John do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" Peter said, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you!" He said to him, "Feed my sheep.

NCV

John 21:15-17

# Do You Truly Love Me?

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Becoming Like Christ** – John 21:15-17

**In Context:** *Read John 21*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly 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 truly 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 (NIV)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

When they had | finished eating, | Jesus said to | Simon Peter, | "Simon | son of John, | do you truly 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 | truly 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 (NIV)

**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, you know I love you. Loving you is passionately motivating my desire to follow and serve you. Obeying your commands is not a burden to me. It is the joy of my heart to go and do what is pleasing to you. Use me in your service. My life is in your hands. Amen

**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How is your love for the Lord growing stronger each day as you follow and serve Him?

**How is your knowing and loving Christ motivating your desire to do what pleases Him?**

How is your love for Christ demonstrated by your obeying His commands?

Where has the Lord guided you and what has He given you to do for Him?

**What joy have you found in going and doing what the Lord has asked of you?**

**Why will you never regret that you have loved and followed and served the Lord?**

What fruit have you born for God's kingdom as you have followed and served Him?

**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Allow your knowing and loving Christ to passionately motivate your desire to follow and serve Him.

**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that knowing and loving Christ will place a call on you to follow and serve Him.

**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group what the Lord has called you to go and do for Him.

**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May your love for Christ motivate your desire to follow and serve Him.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, my love for you does motivate my desire to follow and serve you.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how can I follow and serve you today?*

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