

**Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church**  
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**Lesson 8, April 18 & 23, 2023**

**Unit II: Experiencing the Resurrection**

**Subject: Restored Friendship**

**Text: John 21: 15-19**

**Ker Verse:**

**When they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, loved thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs (John 21: 15, KJV)**

**Introduction:**

**One of the age-old questions that has become a part of relationships in many parts of the world is that of knowing when love is for real. It is easy to tell another person “I love you.” The issue, however, lies in knowing how such an expression of love can be tested and proven to be true or false. Today’s lesson is focused on that basic question: Do you love Jesus? This question is what we as Christians must answer just as Jesus asked Peter in the lesson. Our work in the church is useless if done for any other reason than love for the Lord.**

**Topic # 1**

- **Restored Minister (John 21:15-17)**

**Immediately after Jesus and the disciples ate breakfast together, Jesus turned His attention to Peter. The shared meal turned to a one-on-one conversation, Jesus and Peter only. Jesus took the advantage of this time to address His concerns regarding Peter's past conduct. Jesus addressed Peter as Simon, son of Jonah, there was undoubtedly a tone of rebuke in Jesus’ voice. The emphasis is placed upon the need for Peter to take an introspective look at whether he really loved Jesus more than anything or anyone else. Remember that Peter had boastfully declared that if everyone else deserted Jesus, he would never desert Jesus and pledging to even die for him (Mat 26: 35; John 13: 37). Jesus asked Peter the question to encourage him to confront his sins which had to be addressed and removed before Peter could be commissioned to tend to the Lord’s sheep. The second time Jesus asked Peter, DO YOU LOVE ME, not do you like me or do you respect me (John 21: 16). Jesus was trying to see if Peter really understood what it entails to really love. Not an emotion but true commitment. Peter’s reply to the Lord this time made him feel hurt since he had already told the Lord the first time that he loves him. This time Jesus was asking him to shepherd or provide pastoral care for believers in general. Finally, Jesus asked a third time for Peter to confess his love for Him. The love that Jesus was in reference to this time was “agape,” sacrificial love. Peter replied the same and said that Jesus was omniscient and knew the intent of his heart. Jesús gave Peter three opportunities to publicly reaffirm his love for**

Him while recommissioning him to greater service. Jesús was aware that the important role that Peter was to play in the early church required public restoration to fellowship and friendship with Him. Peter's loving restoration by Christ is the encouragement to know that failure is not final, and that forgiveness is readily available to every repenting believer. Just as Peter was restored to the special relationship that he had with Jesus; we too can experience restoration with the Lord.

## Topic # 2

- **Martyred to Glory (John 21: 18-19)**

Jesus starts out by saying, "Verily, verily," Jesus is explaining the absolute certainty of what is coming. Jesus used the same wording when He warned Peter of his denial (John 13: 38). However, this time Jesus expressed a different kind of warning. Jesus gives Peter a prophetic warning, a contrast between the vigor and self-will of young Peter with an older and mature Peter. Youthful vigor and vitality slowly disappear as one progresses in age. This verse also foreshadows Peter's impending and violent death in bonds. What Jesus was saying made it clear that Peter would die as a prisoner for being one of His followers. Jesus warned Peter that he would be seized, bound, and led away to be executed. The phrase "stretch out your hands" meant he would be crucified. Peter's future death however would not be without purpose- Jesus told Peter that it would glorify Him. Just as Jesus sacrificed His life us. One of the inevitabilities of life is death. We will all eventually die. That reality should change our perspective on life and death. We will all die physically, but because we have been redeemed and reconciled to God, we can faithfully follow Jesus with the assurance of spending eternity in His presence.

**Conclusion:** Following Jesus is not easy. It is challenging, difficult and sacrificial. Those who follow Christ must be willing to do so at the cost of their popularity, preferences, career path, comfort, pride, or their very lives. We have all stumbled and fallen like Peter. Peter's restoration and recommissioning remind believers that we cannot fall too far that Christ will not pick us up, forgive us and continue to use for His glory. The key is to acknowledge it, take responsibility for repenting sin, and submitting to His authority over our lives. Nevertheless, Jesus is calling us to follow Him! Will you follow?