

1. Jesus' Restoration of Peter (15-19)

- a. The Setting: Still seated around a charcoal fire just finishing their meal – “So when they had dined...” (15).
- b. The Commission (15-17)
 - i. Jesus addresses Peter “Simon, son of Jonas” (15)
 1. Jesus used this name the first time He met Peter (cf. 1:42).
 2. The fact that Jesus used his formal name may indicate that their relationship needed to be reestablished.
 - ii. Jesus asks Peter if his love for Him is greater than his love for the other disciples – “Lovest thou me more than these? (15).
 1. Our love for others is always to be a subset of our love for Christ (13:34-35; 15:12-17).
 2. Just as Peter’s threefold denial revealed who he really loved, so Jesus gives Peter three opportunities to affirm his love for Christ.
 - iii. Peter appeals to Jesus’ knowledge of him – “Yea Lord; thou knowest that I love thee” (15).
 1. Peter responds to Jesus’ question with a different word for love, *phileo*, signifying the love of a friend.
 2. Peter knows that he doesn’t love Jesus as he ought, but he loves Him as a friend.
 - iv. Jesus responds, “Feed my lambs” (15).
 1. Peter is to show his love for Jesus by feeding Jesus’ flock.
 2. Here Jesus uses the term, “lambs”, likely referring to young disciples.
 3. Peter is to care for the sheep as Jesus, the Good Shepherd, cares for them.
 - v. Jesus asks Peter a second time, “Simon, Son of Jonas, lovest (*agape*) thou me?” (16)
 1. This question focuses entirely on Peter’s love (*agape*) for Jesus.
 2. Peter’s response is the same, “Yes, you know I love (*phileo*) you.”
 3. Jesus insists that Peter shepherd Jesus’ sheep; loving Jesus and caring for His flock are related.
 - vi. Jesus asks Peter the third time, “Simon son of Jonas, lovest (*phileo*) thou me?” (17)
 1. Jesus questions Peter’s love as a friend.
 2. This third question grieved Peter, and he once again appeals to Jesus’ knowledge of all things.
 3. Peter knows his shortcomings, but he also knows the nature of the One he addresses.
 4. Jesus connects love for Him to feeding His sheep.
- c. The Prophecy (18-19)
 - i. When Peter is young, he has his freedom, but when he is old, he will lose that freedom.
 - ii. His hands would be stretched out, which indicated the kind of death he would die (cf. 19).
 - iii. Peter would have the privilege of dying a martyr’s death.
 - iv. In this way, Peter would follow Jesus in such a committed way that he would follow Jesus even in the death of crucifixion.

2. Jesus' Rebuke to Peter (20-23)

- a. Though Peter has just been commissioned to follow Jesus, his focus is immediately distracted (20-21).
 - i. Peter seemingly misunderstands Jesus’ commission or is made uncomfortable by it.
 - ii. Instead of focusing His own commission, he would rather know what Jesus wants others to do.
- b. Jesus rebukes Peter and recommissions him (23).
 - i. Jesus rebukes Peter for trying to compare his life and calling with John’s.
 - ii. John’s commission is none of Peter’s business.
 - iii. Our call is not to know God’s will for others; our call is to do the will of God by following Jesus.

3. The Origin of the Gospel (24-25)

- a. The narrator of the Gospel of John is the Beloved Disciple (24)

- i. The Beloved Disciple is an authoritative witness to the life and ministry of Jesus from beginning (cf. 1:40) to end – “this is the disciple which testifieth of these things...”
- ii. The Beloved Disciple is the author of the Gospel – “and wrote these things”
- iii. The Beloved Disciple is the model disciple – “we know his testimony is true”
 1. The Beloved Disciple had the most intimate relationship with Jesus because He prioritized His presence.
 2. Since the Beloved Disciple was so close to Jesus, he had a very powerful eyewitness testimony of Jesus’ life and ministry.
- b. The narrator praises the Subject of the Gospel (25).
 - i. “There is not enough space in the world to contain the words needed to make known the fullness of the Word” (Edward Klink III).

Conclusion:

1. Does your relationship with the Savior need to be restored?
2. Are you expressing your love to Christ by nurturing other believers?
3. Who has God placed in your life to feed and shepherd?
4. Are you comparing your calling with others?
5. Are you striving to be a model disciple, one who prioritizes the presence of Jesus?