

POWER HOUR

1/26/2025

Lesson Text:
John 21:15-25

Background Scripture:
Mathew 26:69-75

Devotional Reading:
Jeremiah 23:1-4

“JESUS RESTORES PETER TO SERVICE”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: *15 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. John 21:15 NLT*

Time: A.D. 30

Place: by the Sea of Tiberius

John 21:15-25 NLT

15 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. 16 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. 17 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. 18 “I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don’t want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.” 20 Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?” 21 Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?” 22 Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.” 23 So the rumor spread among the community of believers that this disciple wouldn’t die. But that isn’t what Jesus said at all. He only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?” 24 This disciple is the one who testifies to these events and has recorded them here. And we know that his account of these things is accurate. 25 Jesus also did many

other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.

INTRODUCTION

As students of the Word of God, we must always seek to understand what it says, be accurate as to what it does not say, and be led by the Holy Spirit in this evaluation and the resultant lessons. This passage is very simple in language. There is no hidden meaning, no prophecy that needs special interpretation, and no other Scripture that must be brought to bear to understand what is going on. The passage interprets itself and is a historical narrative.

Besides being inspired by the Holy Spirit and placed in the Word of God, this was written by an eyewitness, the Apostle John, who had a special love for the Lord. John not only wrote this Gospel narrative, but also wrote the three epistles that bear his name, and the book of Revelation, the final book of the New Testament.

Following Jesus means being exclusively His-knowing that to be with Him is all you really need.

1. The Lord Jesus' questions (John 21:15-17).

After the Lord Jesus had miraculously made breakfast for the disciples, it may have been that He and Peter went for a walk and John followed them closely enough to hear their conversation. It is interesting that the Lord asked Peter the same question three times, and that He used the name Simon, son of Jonas, when addressing Peter. It was the Lord Jesus who called Simon to follow Him as His disciple and gave him the name "Peter" (John 1:42). Scripture says the Lord Jesus looked at Simon intently when He said this, so we know it was not just an offhand remark. The name would have future significance.

Simon, the impetuous one, quick to speak and act, would become a rock (Greek, Petros, a solid and stable one). So when the Lord Jesus kept saying, "Simon, son of Jonas," He seemed to be emphasizing Peter's willingness to take immediate action without being patient and waiting for the Lord, even if it proved to be in error or at least needless.

As to the three times Jesus asked Simon the same question, it may be that He would have asked it until He got the reaction from Simon for which He was looking. (John 21:17) says Peter was grieved. (John's use of the name "Peter" here may indicate

that John and the others typically used "Peter," but it was important that John report the Lord's use of "Simon, son of Jonas" here.) The Lord Jesus, having got Peter's attention, said the third time, "Feed my sheep," which refers to those who follow the Lord Jesus (John 10:27).

2. The Lord Jesus' commission (John 21:18-19).

The Lord here reminded Peter that he had always done his own will, but He gave Peter that he had always done his own will, but He gave Peter a prophecy indicating that the manner of his death would be something against his will. Some ancient sources relate that Peter was crucified for his testimony about the Lord Jesus and that he requested to be crucified upside down because he was not worthy to be crucified in the same manner as his Lord.

The Lord Jesus then gave to Peter the commission to follow Him. Even if the Lord Jesus did not explicitly ask Peter to follow Him at their first meeting (John 1:42), He certainly did here. To be true to Him, Peter would have to follow the Lord Jesus all the way through his life and ultimately to martyrdom.

3. The Lord Jesus' clarification (John 21:20-23).

Again, we have no idea if this question put to the Lord by Simon was out of jealousy, curiosity, or was for some other reason, but Peter did ask what the Lord's will would be for John. Peter knew that Jesus and John had a very close and loving relationship. In essence, Jesus' answer was that whatever the Lord wanted for John should make no difference to Peter. Peter was still called upon to follow the Lord Jesus. We do not follow what others are saying but simply follow the Lord and His Word.

4. John's epilogue (John 21:24-25)

John assured his readers that he was telling the truth about all this. He said that in his opinion, if everything the Lord Jesus did were to be written, it would be more than the world could contain. Given that the Lord Jesus, as the Second Person of the Trinity, was and is God, John may well have been right, with little exaggeration.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. The most powerful expression of our love for Jesus is keeping His commandments (John 21:15).

2. Sometimes it is necessary to reaffirm our commitment to Christ (vss. 16-17).
3. We have to follow Jesus even when it leads where we do not want to go (vss. 18-19).
4. We should not be distracted by God's plans for other believers (vss. 20-23).
5. We should be eager to testify to the goodness of Jesus (vs. 24).
6. The wondrous works of Jesus are unlimited (vs. 25).

CONCLUSION

If you have been saved, you have already been called to Christ. Indeed, every person who has been called to trust the Lord Jesus has also been called to follow Him. But you might ask, "Where is He going, and how do I follow Him?" He is going ahead of you through all the rest of your life. Following Jesus will take you to your next job, your next friendship, and your next move in life. Following Him may lead you through health or illness, prosperity or poverty, joy or sorrow, or sometimes through combinations of these things. Following Jesus led Peter to publicly preach Him as crucified and risen. It also led Peter to die for the sake of his Lord and Savior.

Following Jesus involves studying His Word to be mentally and spiritually equipped for what lies ahead. It involves humility, confessing and forsaking sin, ignoring every potential distraction, and looking for His hand in every situation. It involves listening for His voice and rejecting the voice of others at every decision point.

QUESTION (S)

What are the two possible meanings of the phrase "more than these" in John 21:15

What was Jesus emphasizing in His question about Peter's love for Him?

What was Peter emphasizing in his reply?

What did Jesus tell Peter to do when he affirmed his love for Him?

What did Jesus' command to feed His sheep point to?

What might have been Jesus' reason for changing the wording in His third question?

What prophecy did Jesus make about Peter's death?

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is *"Healing a Man Born Blind"*

Lesson Text: *John 9:1-17*

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