

OPEN

If you could know how you are going to die, would you want to know?

John 21:15-19

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.” ¹⁶ 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.” ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

DISCOVER

Jesus uses questions to lead His disciple to repentance and restoration.

Why was Jesus questioning Peter’s love for him? See John 13:37-38; 18:17, 25-27. See also John 21:3.

Why does Jesus address Peter publicly in front of the other disciples?

Why does Jesus use the name Simon instead of Peter?

What or who are the “these” Jesus refers to when he asks, “Do you love me more than these?”

Why does Jesus ask three times “Do you love me?”? What does Jesus accomplish by asking the question three times?

Read Matthew 4:18-20. What has changed in Jesus’ call of Peter? What remains the same?

Most commentators believe the phrase “you will stretch out your hands” alludes to death by crucifixion. Why do you think Jesus includes this information now?

DEEPEN

Jesus uses questions to lead His hearers to a greater understanding of who He is and what He calls them to believe.

How would you feel if you were Peter by the end of this passage?

How would this experience prepare Peter to be a leader in the church? How

might it be used to hinder his leadership?

What does this text teach us about what it means to follow Jesus?

DELIVER

Jesus calls His disciples to act on what He has revealed to them. The disciple responds by trusting Him to work through them in all their vocations.

How does Satan use failure to keep disciples from moving forward in faith?

What helps you return to Jesus after a major failure?

Do you know anyone sidelined by failure who needs to be reminded of Jesus' forgiveness? Be sure and include them in your prayers.

PRAY

Share something you're thankful for and/or something you would like to see God change.

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"Lord, in your mercy ... hear our pray."

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