## Outline

Verses	Jesus' Question	Peter's Answer	Jesus' Response
Jn 21:15	Do you love (Agapao) Me?	I love (Phileo) You.	Feed My lambs
Jn 21:16	Do you love (Agapao) Me?	I love (Phileo) You.	Shepherd My sheep
Jn 21:17	Do you love (Phileo) Me?	I love (Phileo) You.	Feed My sheep

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Agapao (love) = for high and devoted love, God's selfless, committed love Stresses the will somewhat more than the emotions; it is a deliberate, free act of love. Love of whole-hearted devotion, a volitional, self-sacrificial love, altruistic, unconditional love.

**Phileo (love)** = a humbler word, love as a friend. Signifying affection, affinity, a more modest, reciprocal, brotherly love.

1. Jesus out Peter after the resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 (NASB) 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Luke 24:33-34 (NASB) 33 And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, 34 saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon."

2. The Lord everything. Peter doesn't.

## 3. \_\_\_\_\_is gone from Peter.

Matthew 26:33-35 (NASB) 33 But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away." 34 Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." 35 Peter \*said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too.

John 13:37-38 (NASB) 37 Peter \*said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You." 38 Jesus \*answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.

1 Peter 5:5-6 (NASB) 5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

4. Label and identity as a 'loser' is \_\_\_\_\_in the presence of Jesus.

1 Peter 4:8 (NASB) 8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Peter given a chance to wipe away the memory of his own three denials of Jesus Mt 26:69-75 Mk 14:66-72; Lk 22:54-62; Jn 18:15-27 by having Peter give three affirmations of "I love you Lord."

5. Peter needs to see himself through the \_\_\_\_\_\_of Jesus. Jesus believes Peter is a shepherd. Luke 22:31-32 (NASB) 31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

#### 6. Peter the 'Loser' is now the Apostle of

1 Peter 1:3 (NASB) 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:20-23 (NASB) 20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

1 Peter 3:15 (NASB) 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

1 Peter 5:10 (NASB) 10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal alory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

**Conclusion:** 

1 Peter 4:8 (NASB) 8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NASB) 4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails...

## Lifting Up a Loser

John 21:15-17 (HCSB)

<sup>15</sup> When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said to Him, "You know that I love You." "Feed My lambs," He told him.

John 21:15 (HCSB)

<sup>16</sup> A second time He asked him, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" "Yes, Lord," he said to Him, "You know that I love You." "Shepherd My sheep," He told him.

## John 21:16 (HCSB)

<sup>17</sup> He asked him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved that He asked him the third time, "Do you love Me?" He said, "Lord, You know everything! You know that I love You." "Feed My sheep," Jesus said. John 21:16 (HCSB)

Jn 21:15 Do you love (agapao) Me? Yes Lord, I love (phileo) You. Jn 21:16 Do you love (agapao) Me? Yes Lord, I love (phileo) You. Jn 21:17 Do you love (phileo) Me? Yes Lord, I love (phileo) You.

## 1. Jesus searches out Peter.

## 2. The Lord knows everything.

## 3. Boasting is gone from Peter.

# 4. 'Loser' identity is gone in the presence of Jesus.

# 5. Peter needs to see himself through the eyes of Jesus.

# 5. Peter needs to see himself through the eyes of Jesus.

# 6. Peter the 'loser' is now the Apostle of Hope.

## How about you?

#### QUESTIONS

1. Name the biggest blunders of your life – have you faced them, admitted them, wondered about them?

2. What is the closest you have come to blowing it so badly that you thought God was never going to speak to you again? What did you discover about God in that experience?

3. What subtle differences do you notice in Jesus' three questions and Peter's responses (Jn 21:15-17)? What do you think is the significance of those differences?

4. How did Jesus restore His relationship with Peter?

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NASB) 4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, how all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails...

### QUESTIONS

5. What can we learn from this passage about the steps involved in restoring a Christian who has sinned (see Gal 6:1)?

Galatians 6:1 (NASB) 1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

- 6. What hinders us from accepting and enjoying God's forgiveness?
- 7. In what failed relationship would you like to experience healing?
- 8. How did Jesus emphasize the connection between love and service?

### QUESTIONS

- 9. What hope does this story offer us?
- 10. How does this story inspire you to handle your mistakes and failures?
- 11. How does the new commission that Jesus gives Peter offer a concrete way of demonstrating he's been forgiven and express hope for him?
- 12. How would you respond if Jesus asked this to you, "Do you love Me?"
- 13. If Jesus asked you the same question, how would you respond? ("Do you truly love Me?")
  - Yes all the time.
  - Yes most of the time.
  - Yes some of the time.
  - I'm not sure.
  - Other:\_