



**“Follow Me”**  
**John 21:15-19**  
**P.C.C. August 1, 2021**

READ JOHN 21:15-19 (NIV):

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, *“Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”* “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, *“Feed my lambs.”* <sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, *“Simon son of John, do you love me?”* He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, *“Take care of my sheep.”* <sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, *“Simon son of John, do you love me?”*

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, *“Do you love me?”* He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, *“Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”* <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, *“Follow me!”*

Jesus cuts to the heart of the matter questioning Peter concerning his **LOVE**. Jesus asks Peter, 3 times between verses 15 and the end of verse 17, “Do you truly LOVE me?”

The truth is that Jesus knows our hearts. It is one thing to say that we **LOVE** Jesus, but the real test is our willingness to serve Jesus.

**John 18:17** states, *“You are not one of his disciples, are you?” the girl at the door asked Peter. He replied, “I am not.”*

**John 18:25** states, *As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, “You are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it, saying, “I am not.”*

**John 18:26-27** states, *One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the olive grove?” Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.*

The winds of life in this sin filled world will blow and come against you and me. It is what is below the surface that holds us in place. Life is tough and it is not fair.

Yes, Peter had repented, but here Jesus was taking him (Peter) to a deeper level of commitment, that Jesus knew Peter would need to finish his life journey. Peter

**Matthew 16:18.**

***18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.***

It is this type of FAITH, modeled by Peter, that is the foundation of Christ's Kingdom, and ALL Believers have an opportunity to participate together, **IF** we choose to.

We are told that Peter was crucified for his FAITH.

As Believers in Jesus Christ, we can live with the assurance that God is in Complete Control.

We all have a job to do, so that all can hear the **Good News**, and the hope that Jesus is returning for the Believers.

The Lord desires us to have a **Heart** and **Spirit** that will stick to it when the going gets tough and we want to give up.

He is sovereign and He sees everything, we do not. Our perspective is limited and His is infinite.

How would you respond if Jesus asked you, "Do you truly LOVE Me?" Do you really LOVE Jesus? Are you even His friend?

He is our source. He is our life. As stated in **John 14:6**, Jesus answered, ***"I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."***