

The Second Most Important Question Jesus Asked

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"Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?"

- John 21:15

Peter had failed.

Not quietly or privately-
he denied Jesus three times,
just as Jesus said he would.

And after the resurrection,
Jesus meets him-
not with a lecture,
not with a list of disqualifications,
but with a question:
"Do you love Me?"

It's the second most important question Jesus asked
because it redefines what qualifies someone to follow Him.
Not perfection.
Not performance.
Not pedigree.
Just love.

Jesus doesn't ask,
"Do you regret what you did?"
or "Will you try harder next time?"

He asks the one thing Peter still has left-
the one thing failure couldn't erase,
like a moon still visible after morning comes.

The one thing that still connects them:
"Do you love Me?"

And He asks it three times-
not to shame Peter,
but to restore him.

Three denials.
Three questions.
Three commissions-
like waves returning to the shore,
each one restoring what was lost:
"Feed My lambs.
Take care of My sheep.
Feed My sheep."

Jesus doesn't just forgive Peter-
He commissions him.
He doesn't just restore the relationship-
He restores the mission.

This question matters
because it reveals the heart of Jesus.
He doesn't need your résumé.
He wants your affection.

He doesn't build His church on flawless people-
He builds it on cracked vessels mended with love.

Even when they've failed.
Especially when they've failed.

We don't expect Jesus to trust us again.
We don't expect Him to recommit failures.
We don't expect Him to ask for love
when we feel unworthy.

But Jesus does.
Because love isn't the reward for getting it right-
it's the doorway that opens
when all other doors have closed.

You may not know this about Jesus:
He asks "Do you love Me?" not to test, but to restore.

Peter's story didn't end in denial.
It began again in love.
And so can yours.

Jesus is still asking,
"Do you love Me?"

Not to test you,
but to restore you.
Not to expose your weakness,
but to awaken your calling.