

Do You Love Me?

Study & Discussion Questions

01

Passage · John 21:1–19

The Sea of Galilee · from The One

After these things, Jesus revealed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Galilee. He revealed Himself this way.

Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, “I’m going fishing.” They told him, “We’re going with you.” They immediately went out and climbed into the boat. That night, they caught nothing.

But at dawn, Jesus stood on the beach, yet the disciples didn’t know it was Jesus. He asked them, “Children, have you anything to eat?” “No,” they answered Him. And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you’ll catch some.”

They cast it and couldn’t pull it in because there were so many fish. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around himself (for he had taken it off) and dove into the sea.

But the other disciples came in the small boat dragging the net full of fish. For they weren’t far from the land, about a hundred yards away. After they climbed out of the boat and stepped ashore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish and bread laid on it. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you just caught.”

Simon Peter climbed into the boat, and drew the net to land, full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net wasn’t torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and eat breakfast!” None of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?” knowing it was the Lord.

Then Jesus took the bread and fish and gave it to them. This was the third time Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples after He had risen from the dead.

After they had eaten their breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He answered Him, “Yes, Lord, You know I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter said to Him, “Yes, Lord, You know I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He asked him the third time, “Do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Lord, You know everything. You know I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.

Most certainly I tell you, when you were young, you dressed yourself and walked where you wanted. But when you’re old, you’ll stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you don’t want to go.”

Now He said this, signifying by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. When He had said this, He told him, “Follow Me.”

02

Devotional

Bill Perkins

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 stars refusing to fade at dawn.

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 reassigns 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 recommission 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 opening when all other doors have closed.

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.

Not to remind you of your failure,
but to remind you
that love is still possible—
and so is purpose.

Answer Him.
Not with shame.
Not with striving.
Just with love.

Do you love Me?

03

Reflection Question

What honestly rises in me when Jesus asks, “Do you love Me?”

04

What This Means to Me

Peter’s story didn’t end in denial. It began again in love. And so does mine.

Jesus isn’t testing me. He’s restoring me. He’s not asking for perfection — He’s asking for affection. He’s not reminding me of my failure — He’s reminding me that purpose is still possible.

When I hear Him ask, “Do you love Me,” I’m not being examined. I’m being invited.

05

Discussion Questions

- 1** Where do I feel the sting of my own failure right now?
- 2** What does Jesus’ question reveal about His heart toward men who have blown it?
- 3** Why does Jesus go after love instead of performance?
- 4** Where do I need restoration more than explanation?
- 5** Where have I disqualified myself from something Jesus may still be calling me to?

Prayer

Father,

Your Son is asking me:

"Do you love Me?"

I bring You my imperfect love—

the love that remains after failure,

the love that still reaches for You,

the love You Yourself awakened in me.

Restore me where I've fallen.

Recommission me where I've stepped back.

Renew in me the affection that leads to obedience.

I love Your Son.

And I want to follow Him again.

He is the Servant King—

exalted above every name.

I declare this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

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