Feed MY Lambs

11-17-24

John 21:15 (ESV) O/H
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.”

This morning we are coming to a close in our study of the Gospel of John. From Acts 1:3, we know Jesus continued appearing to the disciples for 40 days after HIS resurrection. During this time Jesus continued to teach HIS disciples. From the closing of the gospel of John, before HE ascends into heaven, Jesus gives us HIS final instructions..

John 19:30 (ESV)
Jesus said, “It is finished!”
Finished? Finish because the penalty of sin is paid and mankind restore to the position that was intended. Now:

John 20:21 (ESV)
Jesus said, “As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”
Jesus’ ministry continues through HIS followers.

Therefore:
John 21:15 (ESV)
Jesus said, “Feed MY lambs!”

Very clearly, Jesus says, “It is finished.” Done deal. Then HE says, “I am sending you.” Jesus’ ministry continues. Now in closing HE says, “Feed MY lambs.”

We know from other Scripture that we are to go out into all the world and share the good news of Jesus Christ. But before that can happen, Jesus says, 'Feed MY lambs'. These lambs are the precious ones who have come to know Jesus as their Savior. In Matthew 4:4, we see how we are to feed them.

Matthew 4:4 (ESV)
Jesus said, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

The apostle Paul continues to clarify this teaching tool.
2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)
All Scripture is breathed out by God!

Nourishment comes from the Word of God. Feeding the lambs of God is extremely important. God has given teachers to the church, but also Jesus has taught each one of us and we all should share what we know. Every believer understands that we are forgiven and is required to share that message. Look at John 21:15 again (next slide). Jesus and Peter's discussion contains a lesson about feeding HIS lambs and also about the people Jesus uses to feed them. Notice the two words 'love'. They are actually two different Greek words.

John 21:15 (ESV) O/H
Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon do you love (*Agapaō*) me more than these?" Peter said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love (*Phileō)* you." He said to him, "Feed MY lambs."

Peter was the most vocal of Jesus' disciples. He was first to the first to say that he would never forsake Jesus. When they came to arrest Jesus, drew a sword, and cut off a man's ear. However, when they arrested Jesus, he ran away and later denied three times that he even knew Jesus. Now Peter was not feeling as brash or self-assured as reflected in this verse.

Jesus said Peter do you Agapaō **ME? This is the same word used in John 3:16. Meaning God like sacrificial love.**

Peter answers, **"Yes, Lord; you know that I love (*Phileō)* you meaning I am fond of you and love your like a friend.**

Basically, Jesus says, "Do you sacrificially love me." Peter humbly says, "I love you as a friend." *Jesus then says,* "Okay, FEED MY LAMBS."

Now notice, Jesus speaks to Peter again:
John 21:16 (ESV) O/H
Jesus said to him a <u>second time</u>, "Simon, do you love (*Agapaō)* me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love (*Phileō)* you." He said to him, "Tend MY sheep."

Significantly Jesus repeats this a second time. Jesus says, "Do you sacrificially love me. Peter again humbly says, "I love you as a friend." <u>Peter recognizing his failure and weakness cannot bring himself to say that he self-sacrificially loves Jesus.</u> Peter is only able to say that he loves Jesus as a friend. Still Jesus says, "Okay, take care of MY Sheep."

Now pay attention to the third time that Jesus speaks.
John 21:17 (ESV) O/H
He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love (*Phileō*) me?" Peter was **grieved** because he said to him the third time, "Do you love (*Phileō)* me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love (*Phileō)* you." Jesus said to him, "Feed MY sheep."

Jesus said, "Peter I recognize your weakness, do you at least love ME like a friend?" Peter does not have the human capacity to love sacrificially like Christ does. Peter understood what Jesus said and Peter was "grieved" because Jesus addressed this truth. We only have a ministry through Jesus. Jesus recognizes where we are, HE wants us to recognize where we are. When we recognize our need for Jesus, we will depend on Christ in everything, and we will be able to feed HIS LAMBS.
Galatians 2:20 (ESV)
I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Recognizing we are crucified with Jesus, we depend on Jesus, and likewise we are empowered like Jesus. So, brothers and sisters, we close out the Gospel of John. Feed Jesus' Lambs.
John 3:16 (ESV) O/H
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.