

## Tell Jesus How Much You Love Him

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**John 21:15.** "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs."

Here we see Jesus asking Peter if he loved him. He asked the same question three times. Perhaps Peter was embarrassed to be asked because he had denied Jesus three times before the crowd in the palace. Now his love was questioned in front of the other Apostles. When he had realized that he had denied knowing Jesus, as Jesus had foretold, he went out and wept in sorrow and shame. I think that we can see why Jesus asked the question - lovest thou me?

When Peter said that he did love the Lord, he was told to feed his lambs and the sheep. If he did love Jesus then it would show in the things that he did to serve him. He was not free in the sense that he could live for himself as he had before he met Jesus. This did not

apply only to Peter, but it applies to each believer as well. If Jesus is our Lord and Master, then we are to serve him and put him first in life.

How can we answer the question - "Do you love me" if we don't serve him or obey his commands? If we confess him as Lord, then we are saying that what he says we will do. Can the person who comes to church once in awhile say that he loves Jesus? He might say that he does, but anyone would find it hard to believe. As folks have said, "The walk don't match the talk."

Would a wife, or husband, believe that the spouse loves him, or her, when they had rather be with other people? If a man had rather be with his friends, and do things without his wife, how could she feel loved? Years ago a woman told me that her husband spent all of his time with his friends when he wasn't working. He only came home for clean clothes and to eat. She felt that he didn't have much interest in her or their children. Yes, in case you're wondering, there came a day when she left him. He didn't want a wife to share his life with, he only seemed to want someone to do laundry and be there if he decided that he needed something.

In the same way it would appear that a lot of people want this kind of relationship with the Lord. They may drop in at church once in awhile, but they don't get much out of it. Often they had rather be somewhere else. Usually these will be the ones to complain that the preacher talked too long, or preached at them. They want to be told that they are going to heaven and that they are doing good, but they want to live their own lives as they choose.

So if you are one who had rather do something other than worship and follow the Lord, tell him how much you love him. Family often are put before the Lord, as is money, entertainment, sports, politics, and many other things. Yet, it is the Lord who is called on to help when there is trouble. It may be an accident, sickness, loss of income, or some other problem, but God is asked to fix the problem so that they can get back to the life that they want to live. God is called on when needed, or when it is fashionable, not daily.

If we love someone we don't have to say it every minute. Our love shows in the way that we treat the person. The one who is loved knows that they are loved. If they have to ask then there is a problem. Does the Lord have to ask us, "Do you love me?"

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Exodus intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

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THE SERPENT MOSES HAS PRODUCED HAS DEVoured THE SERPENTS OF THE EGYPTIAN PRIESTS, TO SHOW PHARAOH THAT THE GOD OF THE ISRAELITES IS ALL POWERFUL, NOW...

IT IS A EVIL OMEN!  
WHAT NOW WILL PHARAOH DO?  
I WILL NOT LET THY PEOPLE GO!  
AND PHARAOH RETIRES TO HIS PRIVATE CHAMBERS, REFUSING TO LET THE ISRAELITES GO!  
THEY SHALL WORK ALL THE HARDER!

MOSES IS DOWNCAST!  
GET THEE UNTO PHARAOH IN THE MORNING WHEN HE GOETH OUT UNTO THE WATER... SAY UNTO HIM, THE LORD GOD OF THE HEBREWS HATH SENT ME UNTO THEE, SAYING, LET MY PEOPLE GO... THUS SAITH THE LORD I WILL SMITE THE RIVER!

BUT THE LORD SPEAKS AGAIN UNTO HIS SERVANT MOSES!  
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