

## The Wednesday Word, September 12, 2018: A Question for Us All

*He said unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me? John 21:17.*

This ancient question from the Master – ‘Do you love Me?’ can be directed at us all. Do we love the Lord Jesus? It’s a simple but profound question ... Do we love Him?

Peter had denied the Master three times. Awful! But notice what Jesus didn’t ask Peter. He didn’t inquire,

“Peter are you fond of me?”

“Peter, do you believe in Me?”

“Peter, will you try harder in future?”

No! He asked him, “Do you love Me?”.

Notice again how our gracious Master doesn’t say,

“Peter, how much have you wept over your failure?”

“How often have you beaten yourself up because of your great sin?”

“Peter, how often have you been on your knees seeking mercy?”

“Peter, I’m waiting for you to say sorry.”

“Peter, I want you to make a resolution to improve.”

**Here’s the Gospel Truth, Grace does not require us to do something to get back into the Lord’s favour. Grace doesn’t demand a promise to improve! The law does that! But Grace will cause us to follow Him!**

Love for Jesus is more important than promises and pledges to do better. Peter’s failure can be traced to one thing ... a lack of love for Jesus. That’s what caused His crisis. It wasn’t a lack of zeal or commitment but a cataclysmic deficiency in his love that caused his fiasco of denial.

*"Do you love me?"* Ah! That's the query for us today. It's a challenging question but it's also a comforting one? It's reassuring to know that we may have failed the Lord miserably as Peter did, and yet be entrusted with that which is precious to Him. He loves us despite our failures.

And that’s the question Jesus is asking us today---"Do we love Him?" Can we say with the Hymnwriter?

“The dearest idol I have known,  
Whate’er that idol be,  
Help me to tear it from thy throne,  
And worship only thee.”

Do we love Jesus? Real Christianity is all about Him! Do we love Him? The Lord is not asking do we love serving Him. Nor is He asking do we love working for Him? Jesus is asking, ‘Do we love Him?’

There's an old story of the elderly lady who was dying. During her long life, she had memorized many Bible verses, and her favorite was from the Apostle Peter, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:" (1 Peter 1:8) As she grew older she forgot most of the texts she had learned, but she held onto that one, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:.." -----Then near the end of her days she forgot the first part of the text and all that she remembered was, "ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not," and she kept repeating that. And finally, at the end, the only thing she could remember was one word "him" "him" "him" which she kept saying. She'd lost the whole Bible except for one word, but she had the whole Bible in that one word, "Him," the Lord Jesus Christ.

And that's the Gospel Truth!