

The Book of John:
The Disciple Jesus Loved
Study Notes
Chapter 21 PT. 2: Lovest Thou Me?

Introduction: We start our FINAL CLASS with a question that everyone will have to answer one day: **“Lovest Thou Me?”**

Before We Begin:

Question: Now that you have come to the end of the Love Journey that Holy Spirit has guided us in in the Gospel of John, written by the “Disciple Whom Jesus loved”, can you say the without a doubt, **“YES I LOVE JESUS”**?

Okay - Remember your answer, and let’s see what His Disciple, who walked with Him for 3 1/2 years had to say as we end this Journey of Love.

Important Note: We will do the King James Version (KJV) for verses 15-17.

John 21:15-25

Verse 15

John 21:15 (KJV) - ¹⁵ So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest (G25)** thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that **I love (G5368)** thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my lambs.**

Key: Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. The first time Jesus said “lovest (*agapao*-G25) thou me more than these?”

“...lovest thou me more than these?”

Lovest-(Greek)-agapao (G25)-to love (in a social or moral sense): (be-)love(-ed).

Peter Responds With: Love-phileo(G5368)-to be a friend, personal attachment.

Note: The **1st time** Jesus asked; He is focusing on how much Peter loves Him, compared to the other Disciples.

Verse 16

John 21:16 (KJV) - ¹⁶ He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest (G25) thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that **I love thee (G3568)**. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep**.

Key: The second time Jesus asked him, He focused all His attention on Peter alone. Lovest (*agapao-G25*) thou me?

“...lovest thou me?”

Jesus Asking: Lovest-(Greek)-agapao-to love (in a social or moral sense): (be-) love(-ed).

Peter Responds With: Love-(phileo)-to be a friend, personal attachment.

Note: The 2nd time Jesus asked Peter; He is making the question personal - **“lovest thou me?”**

Verse 17

John 21:17 (KJV) - ¹⁷ He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest (G3568) thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, **thou knowest all things;** thou knowest that **I love (G3568) thee**. Jesus saith unto him, **Feed my sheep**.

Key: The third time Jesus asked him, Jesus kept it personal but with an amazing show of AGAPE love!

“...lovest thou me?”

Jesus is NOW Asking: Love-(phileo)-to be a friend, personal attachment.

Peter Responds With: Love-(phileo)-to be a friend, personal attachment.

“Am I even your Friend?”

Note: The 3rd time Jesus asked Peter; He dropped His standard for the type of love He required from Peter.

Question: Why?

Answer: Peter tells us in **Verse 17, “thou knowest all things”**. He is Merciful!

- Jesus knows Peter’s Heart! Jesus understood all Peter was capable of was the “brotherly love” at this moment.
- G-d knows only **He** can love perfectly!

- What is so awesome about this truth is Jesus did not need Peter to love Him back the same as He loved Him. Jesus accepted Peter just where he was! This is a demonstration of AGAPE love!

ALSO, IN VERSES 15-17:

Key: Jesus commands Peter to “Feed My **Lambs**” (G721) in **Verse 15** to “Feed My **Sheep** (G4263)” in **Verses 16-17**. **Why?**

Verse 15: Lambs

Lambs-(G721-Greek)-*arnion*-a little lamb, a lamb.

KEY: Also used of Christ (**John 1:29**), innocently suffering and dying to atone for the sins of men.

Lamb-(G286-Greek)-*amnos*-a lamb. In this passage, Christ is likened to a sacrificial lamb on account of his death, innocently and patiently endured, to atone for sin.

But, in Verses 16-17: Sheep

Sheep-(G4263-Greek)-*probaton*-any four-footed, tame animal accustomed to graze.

Revelation: Jesus is saying don’t miss *anyone* - from the smallest (Baby Saints on milk) to the mature (Mature Saints that Rightly Divide the Word of G-d)! Make Disciples of ALL Nations (**Matthew 28:19**).

Acts 10:34 (AMP) – ³⁴ Opening his mouth, Peter said: “Most certainly I understand now that God is not one to show partiality [to people as though Gentiles were excluded from God’s blessing],

1 Peter 2:10 (AMP) – ¹⁰ Once you were not a people [at all], but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Our Times Are in His Hand

Verses 18-19

John 21:18-19 (NASB) - ¹⁸ Truly, truly I tell you, when you were younger, you used to put on your belt and walk wherever you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will put your belt on you, and bring *you* where you do not want *to go*.” ¹⁹ Now He said this, **indicating by what kind of death he would glorify God**. And when He had said this, He said to him, **“Follow Me!”**



Note: Jesus was letting them know He would one Day die at the hands of others in order to glorify G-d and He invites them to be willing to do the same: **“Follow Me!”**

1. **James the Great (son of Zebedee):** Was martyred by **beheading** in Jerusalem around **44 A.D.** on the orders of **King Herod Agrippa**. First of the twelve apostles to die for his faith
2. **Peter:** Tradition states he was martyred and requested to be crucified upside down because he felt unworthy to die in the same manner as Jesus.
3. **Andrew:** Tradition holds he was crucified in Greece on an X-shaped cross (often called St. Andrew's Cross), where he preached to his tormentors for two days before dying.
4. **Thomas:** Traditionally believed to have been martyred in India, where he was pierced with a spear during his missionary work.
5. **Bartholomew:** Early church records often claim he was flayed alive (skinned) and then crucified or beheaded in Armenia.
6. **Matthew:** Traditions claim he was martyred by being stabbed or beheaded.
7. **James (Son of Alphaeus):** Tradition claims he was stoned and potentially crucified or sawn in half in Egypt or Syria.
8. **Philip:** Tradition states he was either crucified upside down or beheaded.
9. **Simon the Zealot:** Tradition states he was sawn in half.
10. **Thaddeus (Judas, not Iscariot):** Tradition states he was martyred in Persia or Roman Syria, possibly shot with arrows.
11. **Matthias:** Chosen to replace Judas Iscariot, is also traditionally recorded as having been martyred by being stoned and then beheaded.
12. **John:** Traditionally considered the only apostle to survive into old age and die of natural causes in Ephesus.

Verses 20-22

John 21:20-22 (NASB) - ²⁰ Peter turned around and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*—the one who also had leaned back on His chest at the supper and said, “Lord, who is the one who is betraying You?” ²¹ So Peter, upon seeing him, said to Jesus, “**Lord, and what about this man?**” ²² Jesus said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me!”

Understanding: Jesus is subtly telling Peter, what He has planned for John is none of his business.



- He wants Peter and all His children to focus on our own walk with Him.
- No two paths will be the same.
- The Disciples went in different directions to flee persecution, and this was G-d's plan to spread the Gospel.

Verse 23

John 21:23 (NASB) - ²³ Therefore this account **went out** among the brothers, that that disciple would not die; yet **Jesus did not say to him that he would not die**, but *only*, “If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you?”

Note: And this is how rumors spread! Peter was so concerned about the Disciple that Jesus Loved (John) that it can even be perceived as envy to a degree, or he is truly just curious! John added this to this Gospel for a reason.

- Remember, Peter knows his assignment, “Feed My Lambs, Feed My Sheep”.
- Unfortunately, he got distracted by what the Lord is doing with another.
- We should all desire to be imitators of Christ alone! **(1 Corinthians 11:1)**
- It shows a lack of understanding the value of your own identity.

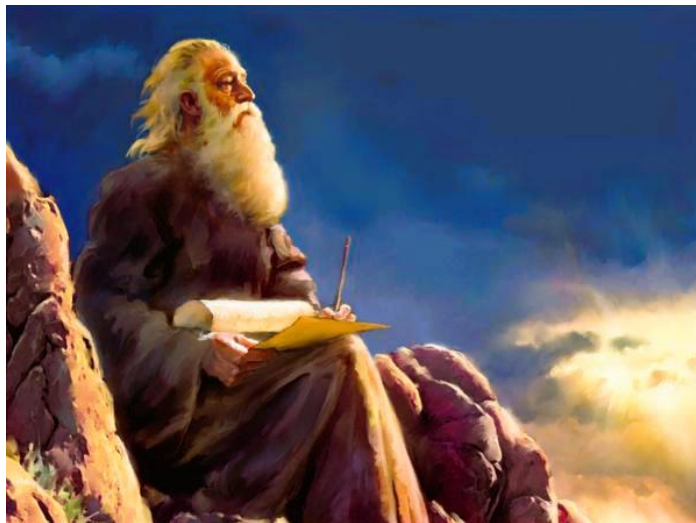
Colossians 3:23 (AMP) - ²³ Whatever you do [whatever your task may be], work from the soul [that is, put in your very best effort], as [something done] for the Lord and not for men,

2 Corinthians 10:12 (NASB) - ¹² For we do not presume to rank or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they have no understanding.

Verses 24-25

John 21:24-25 (NASB) - ²⁴ This is the disciple who is testifying about these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ But there are also many other things which Jesus did, which, **if they were written in detail, I expect that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.**

SELAH!



**The End of John's Journey of Love:
Let It Be The Beginning of Yours!**