

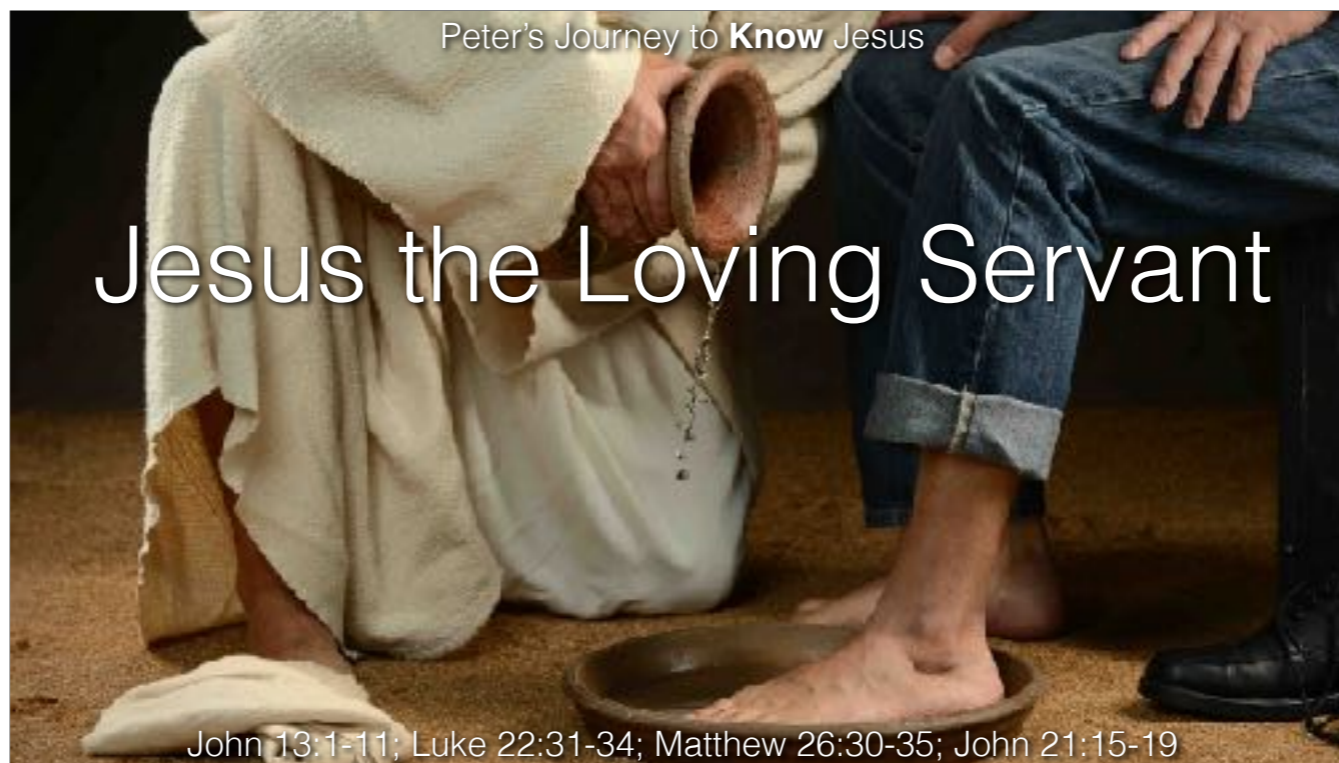
- Review

- The Amazing Jesus

- With both miracles and teaching, Peter begins to understand that there's something very special about Jesus: He is powerful. He has authority. He is holy. He is the savior, and through his words we can have eternal life.

- Jesus the Christ

- Peter grows to know that Jesus is the long anticipated Messiah. He's much more than just a prophet sent from God.
 - His deity is also made clear to Peter, but this is difficult for Peter to accept.
 - Peter equates Jesus with Moses and Elijah, but the Father tells us to listen to Jesus.



- But Peter still doesn't really understand who Jesus is.
 - And as Jesus' time on earth draws near an end ... He needs Peter to grow in his knowledge, to come to really know who Jesus is.



- He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?”
- Why would Peter question (any) of Jesus’ actions?
- Jesus has purposefully presented himself to his disciples dressed as a servant ... the lowest of the servants (towel around waist)
- Jesus has purposefully washed the feet of the disciples



- Now it's Peter's turn ... and Peter wants no part of Jesus serving him (did you notice that he dropped "Lord" at this point?). Even for the briefest of moments.
- Peter knows Jesus well:
 - Miracles, Holy, Savior, Words of Life
 - Christ, Deity, Listen
 - "Lord": meaning "Master" or as a term of respect ... how did Peter mean it?



- Perhaps Peter was reasoning that it was unbecoming of a master to wash feet like a common servant.
 - Peter was perhaps reminding Jesus of his exalted position?
 - Peter was perhaps trying to be humble? (Like John, I'm unworthy to tie his sandals? Was Peter thinking he was unworthy of having his feet washed by Jesus?)



- Also this fits very well with Peter's rebuke of Jesus earlier when Jesus told the disciple that he had to go to Jerusalem, suffer and die. Jesus serving didn't fit Peter's vision of his Master, so he rejected it.
- We don't know why ... but Peter clearly disagreed with what Jesus was doing.
- And Jesus does tell us that Peter doesn't get it.



What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterwards you will understand.

- Jesus answered him, **“What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”**
- You don’t understand now.
 - Clearly ... but why didn’t Peter understand?
 - Had Jesus demonstrated through their three years together that He came to serve?
 - Matthew 20:28 (ESV) 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterwards you will understand.

- This is a hard lesson for Peter ... and often us.
 - Would you let Jesus wash your feet? (are you sure?)



What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterwards you will understand.

- I love Jesus patience at this time toward Peter ...
 - He's asking Peter to trust him
 - Eventually, it will be clear to Peter.
 - Sometimes understanding Jesus is difficult for us ... (like Peter)
 - Are you willing to wait ... to listen ... to think: to trust Jesus?
 - Or are you more likely to just react like Peter?



- “If I do not wash you, you have no share in me.” (or “no part”)
- Astonishing insight here ...
 - Jesus wants us to share with him ... to have a part in him
 - Just like he did us:
 - Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,



- So he wants us to be like him
 - Romans 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.



- This is not just about the glory (though true, 2 Corinthians 3:18) but about our very character and essential nature.
 - To be like Jesus, Peter needed to humble himself.
 - It seems he was not being humble, he wasn't submitting to Jesus his lord and master.
 - Peter needed to learn not just to act like a servant, but to be a servant.



You also ought to wash
one another's feet.

- John 13:12-17 (ESV) 12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.



You also ought to wash
one another's feet.

- Jesus not makes explicit the understanding he promised Peter (He really didn't have to wait long)
 - Lord and Teacher
 - You should do just as I have done to you
 - If know, blessed if you do them.



- Later that night, Jesus has a very pointed conversation with Peter
- Luke 22:31-34: “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”



- Jesus warns Peter that he is about to go through a difficult trial by Satan.
 - What has Jesus done for Peter?
 - Prayed: Faith not fail
 - Turn again, strengthen brothers.
 - What does “turn again” imply?
 - That Peter will fail to some extent (and he does)



- Application: Do we fail to pray for our brethren like Jesus prayed for Peter?
 - Do we just expect our brothers and sisters to be strong?
 - Do we tell them that we are praying for them?
 - Do we open a door for them to come back when they've failed?



- What hasn't Jesus done for Peter?
 - Make it go away or be easier.
 - Peter needs to go through this?



- How does Peter respond to this warning and encouragement?
 - Peter doesn't think this will be an issue despite Jesus warning.
 - Ready to go to prison and to death!
 - Is Peter sincere?
 - Consider other accounts of this:
 - Mt. 26:33: "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away."
 - Mt. 26:35: "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!"
 - Why is Peter so confident? so loyal?



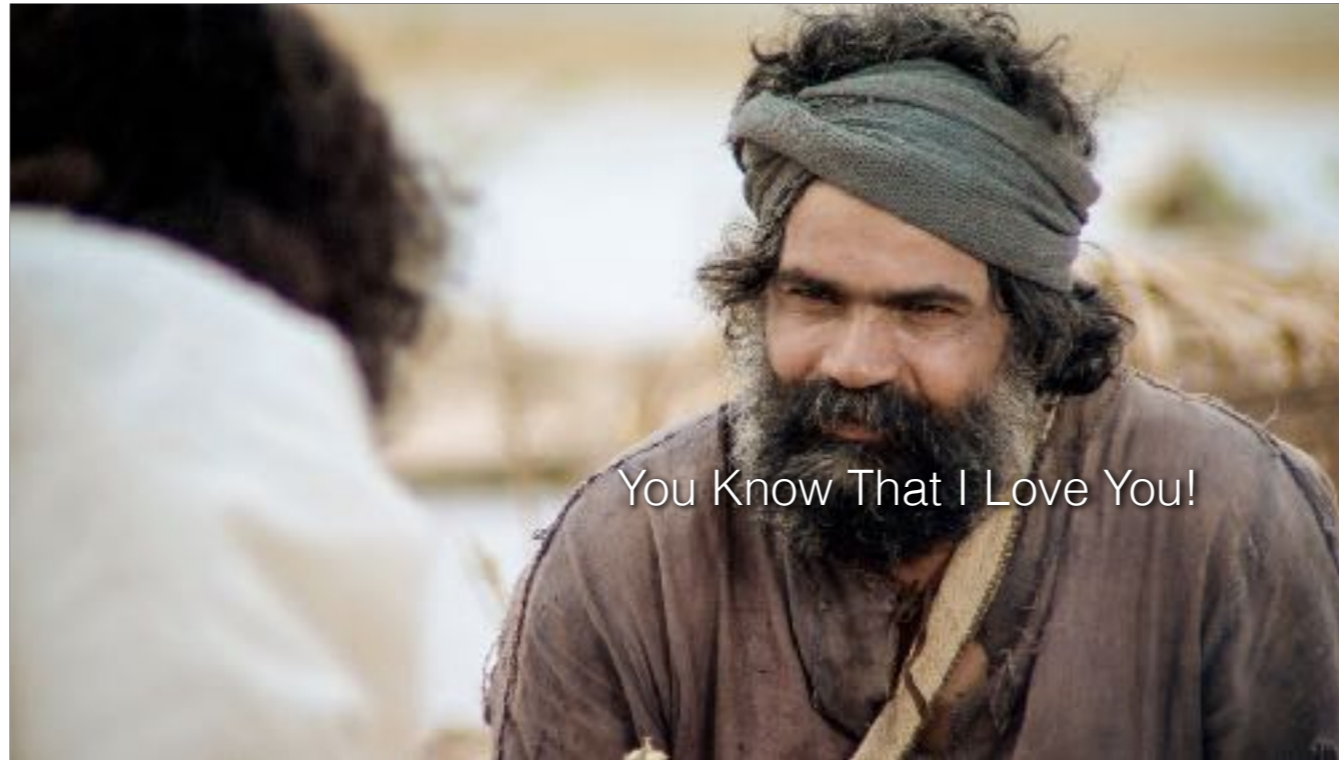
- “I do not know the man.”
 - What is the significance of Peter’s denial of Jesus?
 - Fear certainly.
 - But is he also still struggling with
 - What does this reveal about what Peter thought about Jesus and what Jesus was doing?



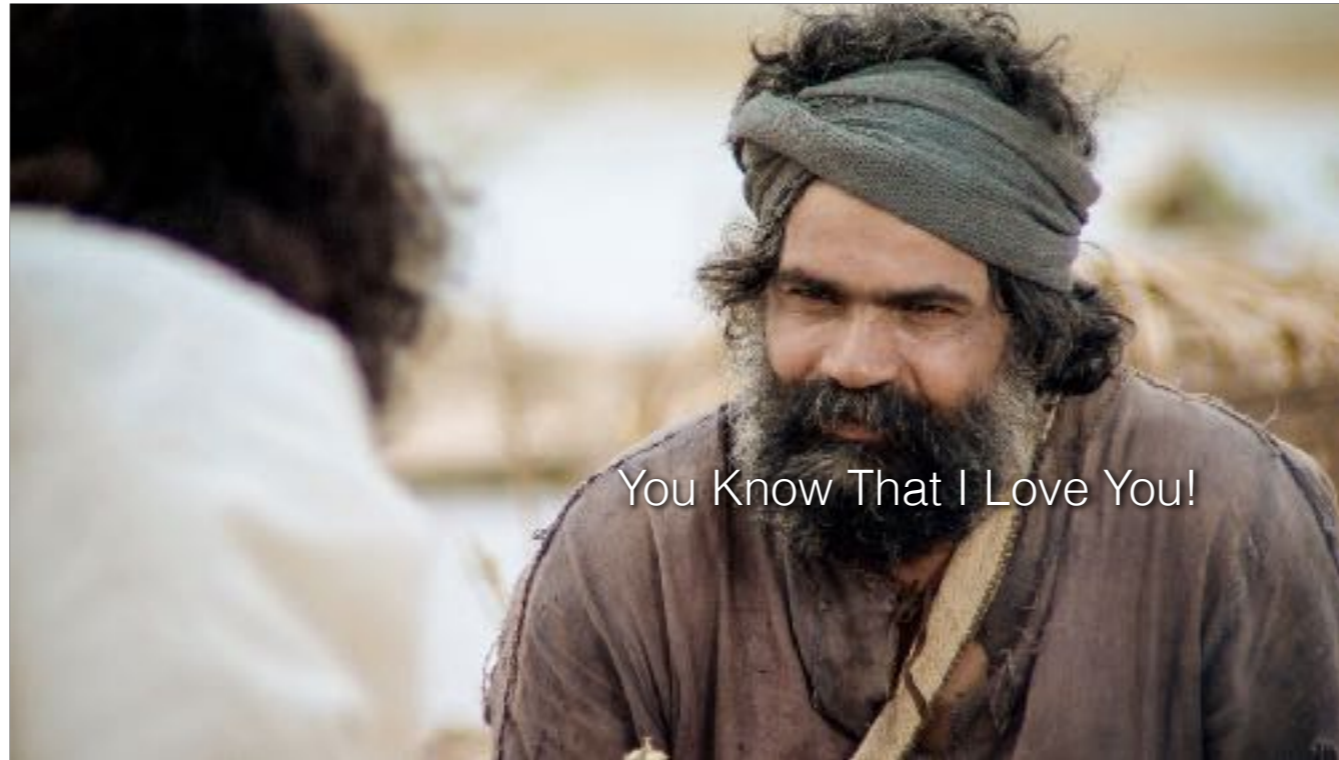
- Peter must learn that it's not going to be all about a glorious kingdom: victory, triumph, et. al.
 - Trials, suffering, difficulties are all involved in following Jesus.
 - I must be prepared to serve Jesus faithfully through these trials.
 - I must be prepared to turn back when I fail.
 - I must be prepared to help others (SERVANT!)



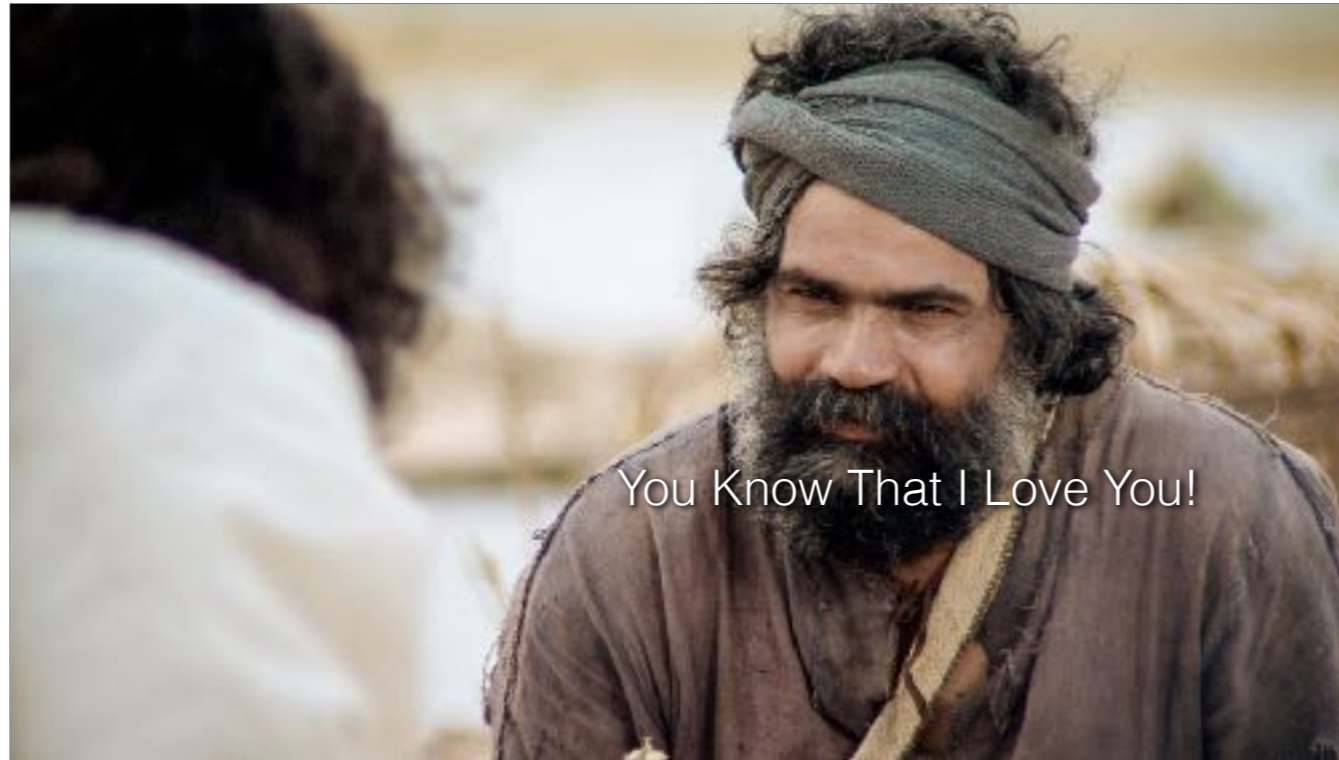
- Enduring these trials: example of Jesus.
 - Prayer
 - Brethren
 - Turning again
 - Strengthening others who are struggling
- Peter needed to be prepared for both the trial, the return, and helping. So do I.
- Are you ready to go with Jesus?
 - Maybe prison, maybe death,
 - Definitely as a servant ...



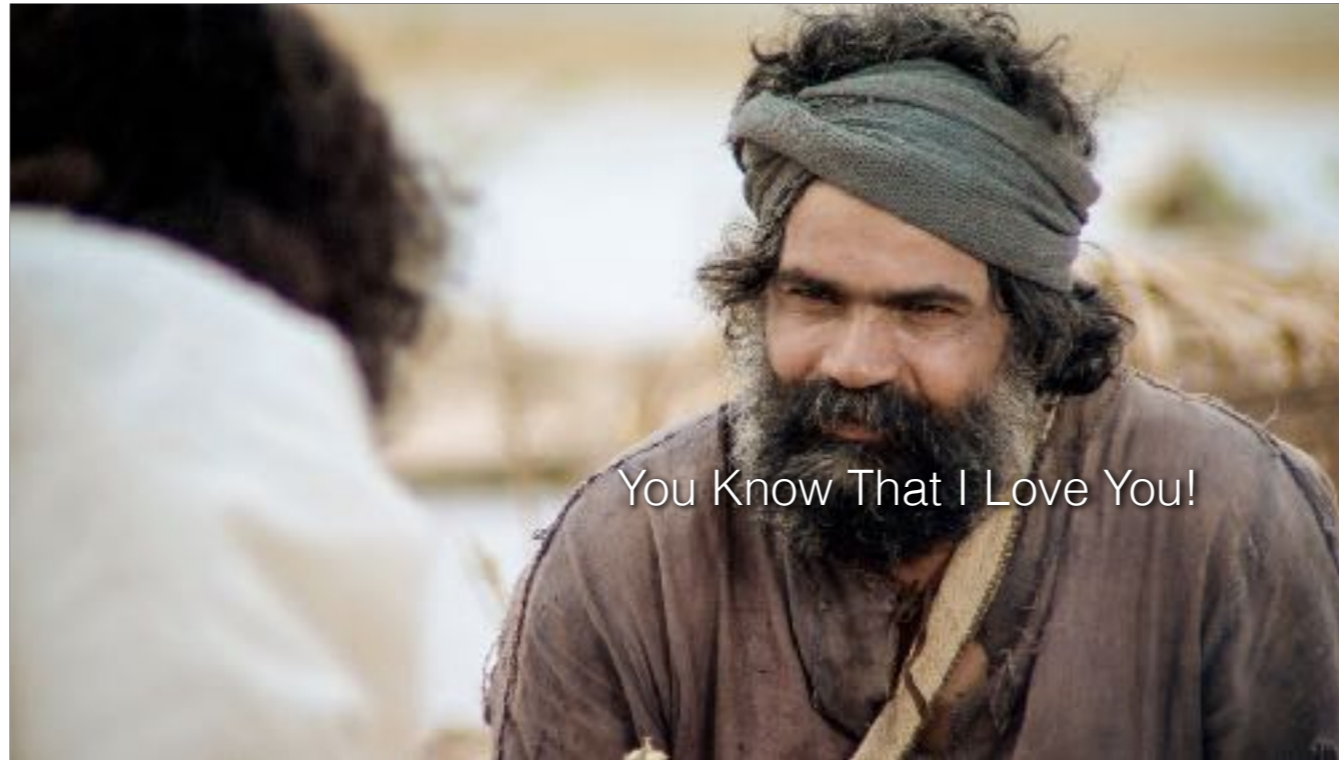
- After Jesus' resurrection, Peter and Jesus have an interesting conversation.
- John 21:15-19: When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."



- Amazingly, it starts with a large catch of fish, much like their first recorded conversation. (Jn. 21.4-14; Lk. 5.1-11). Except this time the nets didn't start breaking.
- After breakfast, Jesus asks Peter a question:
 - "Do you love me more than these?"; "Do you love me?" (2X)
 - We know Jesus loves us (John 3:16)



- Do you love Jesus? (What if you were standing before him and he asked you ... three times)
 - What does it mean to love him?
 - John 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
 - While Peter hadn't been perfect, he still loved Jesus.
 - While Peter had denied Jesus, he still loved Jesus.
 - Peter came back to Jesus ... Like prodigal son



- 1 Peter 1:8-9 (ESV) 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. (2X); (Grieved) Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.



- “Feed my lambs;” “Tend my sheep;” “Feed my sheep.”
 - This is the heart of understanding love for Jesus.
 - Peter was not to lord it over others, but rather to serve them in love.
 - It’s not just about serving (for the sake of serving, as it were; going through the motions but without heart)
 - Because I love Jesus, I’m willing to help my brethren.
 - Because I love my brethren, I serve them. (For their good, Not in doing evil)



- “Follow me.”
 - Compare this to the first time Peter began to follow Jesus (Lk. 5.1-11). What has changed for Peter?
 - Amazed - Christ - Servant



- Peter finally learns who Jesus is.
 - Jesus' character is one of a servant, who loves (agape).
 - Peter doesn't want Jesus to wash his feet, who ever heard of a master who stoops to wash feet (serve).
 - For us to be with Him means that we must be like Him (heart).



- Peter asserts that he will be with Jesus through prison and death, that he would never fall away.
 - Jesus warns him that he will go through a trial and would deny him, which he does.
- Peter has a difficult time understanding that in serving Christ we often must suffer just as He suffered.
- After the resurrection, the conversation turns to love, love for Jesus that looks to serve others and care for them.
- Our job is to follow Jesus, meaning we are to be like Him.
- Righteousness is about who we are, we are servants.



- Peter's Journey to Know Jesus
 - It's his journey ... your journey may be very different (will be)
 - It will be a process though
- Getting to know Jesus is vital and it won't happen by accident
 - It takes time.
 - Time with Jesus (through scriptures!)
 - Time listening to Jesus
 - Which will often challenge our preconceived notions, et. al.
- Give yourself the opportunity to know him: dig deeper.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

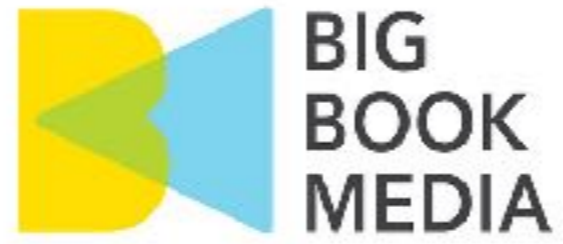
2 Corinthians 5:20

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2022 April 24
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Jesus the Loving Servant

John 13:1-11; Luke 22:31-34; Matthew 26:30-35; John 21:15-19

Synopsis: On Peter's journey to know Jesus he finally comes to understand that Jesus is a loving servant. And he must learn to be one too.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”