

John 21:15-17

15-17. So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, **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 again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, 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 Jonah, 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 all things; You know that I LOVE You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

- **Ephesians 6:24** "Grace be with all those who _____ our Lord _____ Christ in _____. Amen."
- **John 14:21** "He who has My _____ and keeps them, it is he who _____ Me. And he who _____ Me will be _____ by My _____, and I will _____ him and manifest (show, reveal) Myself to him."
- **John 14:15** "If you _____ Me, _____ My _____."
- **I John 4:9-11** "In this the _____ of God was manifested toward us, that God sent His only begotten _____ into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is _____, not that we _____ God, but that He _____ us and sent His _____ to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so _____ us, we also ought to _____ one another."

Definition: "Do you LOVE Me more than THESE?" - Most Bible teachers are in agreement that the "more than these" does not mean "Do you love Me more than these other disciples?" but "Do you love Me **more than THESE - your fishing boat, nets, and style of life as a fisherman?**" It is the question Jesus asks ALL of us, one way or another: are we willing to give up our old lifestyle in order to follow him? This **old lifestyle is often called "the world"** in the Bible, because before we were saved, everything we did was based on what is out there in this world. Now, as Christians, we are to base our new life on God's word, not on worldly wisdom and ideas.

- **I John 2:15-16** "Do not _____ the world or the _____ in the _____. If anyone _____ the world, the _____ of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is _____ of the _____ but is of the world."
- **Luke 7:41-43 & 47** "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had _____ with which to repay, he freely _____ them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will _____ him more?" Simon answered and said, 'I suppose the one whom he _____ more.' And He said to him, 'You have rightly judged.'" "Therefore I say to you, her _____, which are _____, are forgiven, for she _____ much. But to whom little is _____, the same _____ little."
- **James 4:4** "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that _____ with the _____ is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the _____ makes himself an _____ of God."

Definition: "Whoever wants to be a FRIEND of the WORLD" - Being a "friend of the world" or **loving the things of this world** more than how much we love Jesus is a problem with a lot of us. God's word says it is a very serious problem, though, and actually **makes us enemies of God** when we love the world more than we love Him.

In Mark 10:17-23, we see the "Rich Young Ruler" (see also Luke 18:18-25) who has "kept all the commandments from his youth" but who **LOVES his money and possessions more than he LOVES Jesus.**

- **Mark 10:17-23** "Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, 'Good Teacher, _____ shall I _____ that I may inherit eternal life?' So Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call Me _____? No one is good but One, that is _____. You know the _____, "Do not commit _____," "Do not _____," "Do not steal," "Do not bear false witness (tell lies)," "Do not defraud (cheat)," "Honor your father and your mother.'" And he answered and said to Him, 'Teacher, all these I have _____ from my youth.' Then Jesus, looking at him, _____ him, and said to him, 'One thing you _____: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and _____ Me.' But he was _____ at this word, and went _____ grieved, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have _____ to enter the kingdom of God!'"

Definition: "No one is GOOD but One, that is GOD" - Jesus "tested" the rich young ruler in two areas. The first area was in **whether the young man believed Jesus was just a "good man" or the Son of God, actually God in the flesh.** In order for a person to be saved, they must believe in Jesus as the Savior and Son of God, not just a "good man" or a prophet. Jesus is God in human form, in the flesh, so He is good, but He is pointing out to this man that if he's going to call Him "good" he must believe also that Jesus is indeed God.

- **John 20:28-29** "And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My _____ and My _____!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have _____ Me, you have _____. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
- **John 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with _____, and the _____ was _____."

Definition: "Jesus, looking at him, LOVED him, and said, 'One thing you LACK" - Some people get mixed up and confused, and think that Jesus is teaching that we must ALL give up our wealth and possessions and give it to the poor, in order to please God. That is not what Jesus is teaching here, but He is "testing" the rich young man **to see whether he loves his money and material possessions more than God.** It is actually a test to see if the young man has kept the first commandment, which is to "have no other gods before" the one true God. This young man boasted that he had kept all the other commandments, but in this one, the most important, he failed. Obviously, **the rich young man had made his money and possessions his "god"**, because he was sad, and went away, and did not follow Jesus.

- **Deuteronomy 6:5** "And you shall _____ the _____ your _____ with all your _____ and with all your soul and with all your might."
- **Exodus 20:3** "You shall have _____ other _____ before Me."
- **Romans 13:8-10** "Owe no man anything except to love one another, for he who _____ another has fulfilled the law. For the _____, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not covet,' and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, 'You shall _____ your neighbor as yourself.' _____ does no harm to a neighbor; therefore _____ is the fulfillment of the law."
- **Matthew 22:36-40** "'Teacher, which is the _____ commandment in the law?' Jesus said to him, 'You shall _____ the _____ your _____'"

with all your _____, with all your _____, and with all your _____ . This is the first and great _____. And the second is like it: You shall _____ your _____ as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the _____ and the Prophets."

Definition: "Peter was GRIEVED because he said the THIRD time, "Do you love Me?" - Why do you suppose Jesus asked Peter this question THREE TIMES? Because Peter had DENIED knowing Jesus THREE TIMES after His arrest, and before His crucifixion. Jesus fully restored and forgave Peter, but He wanted to have it really sink in with Peter, so **Jesus repeated it THREE times to counteract the three times Peter denied knowing Him.**

- **John 13:37-38** " _____ said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will _____ down my _____ for Your sake." Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have _____ Me _____ times."
- **Mark 14:69-72** "And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, 'This is one of them.' But he _____ it again. And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, 'Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it.' But he began to _____ and _____, 'I do not _____ this _____ of whom you speak!' And a second time the rooster _____. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the rooster crows _____, you will _____ Me _____ times.' And when he thought about it, he _____."

Definition: "Feed My LAMBS" - God's people are referred to as His sheep many times in both the Old Testament and New Testament. Here, where it says "**lambs,**" **it means the new, baby believers** in particular, who are most vulnerable. God takes very seriously the teaching or "feeding" of His lambs and sheep. Those shepherds (pastors, ministers) who do not feed His sheep properly, or mistreat them, will be severely judged (read Ezekiel 34 and Jeremiah 23), but God says He will send good shepherds to feed them, and of course, Jesus himself is the ultimate Good Shepherd.

- **John 10:11-13** "I am the _____ shepherd. The good _____ gives His _____ for the _____. But he who is a hireling and not the shepherd, one who does not _____ the _____, sees the wolf coming and leaves the _____ and flees; and the wolf catches the _____ and _____ them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not _____ about the sheep."
- **Ezekiel 34:12 & 15-16** "As a _____ seeks out his flock in the day that he is among his _____ that are scattered; so will I seek out My _____, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." "I will _____ My _____, and I will cause them to lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was _____, and will strengthen that which was sick...."
- **Jeremiah 23:3-4** "And I will gather the remnant of My _____ out of all countriesand will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up _____ over them which shall _____ them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, says the Lord."
- **John 10:26-29** "But you do not believe, because you are not of My _____, as I said to you. My _____ hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them _____ life, and they shall _____ perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has _____ them to Me, is greater than all; and _____ is able to snatch them out of My _____ hand."

- **Psalm 95:6-7** "Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the _____ of His _____, and the _____ of His hand...."
- **Read Luke 15:3-7** "So He spoke this parable (a story illustrating something about God) to them saying, 'What man of you, having a hundred _____, if He _____ one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the _____ which is _____ until He finds it? And when He has _____ it, He lays it on His shoulders, _____. And when He comes home, He calls together His _____ and neighbors, saying to them, '_____ with Me, for I have _____ My _____ which was lost!' I say to you that likewise (in the same way) there will be more _____ in _____ over one _____ who _____ than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.'"