

This Changes Everything

Reading John 21: 15- 25

Introduction



Peter had once boasted that he would be prepared to die for Jesus. When it came to it, Peter denied even knowing Jesus. Now, after the resurrection, Jesus forgives and reinstates Peter. His thrice repeated question -Do you love me? - is the opportunity to cancel out his three denials. The way the question is put to him sounds like a Vow as Jesus uses his old name 'Simon son of John'. The more than these is surely a reference Peter's boast that he loved him more.

Loving the Lord needs more than just words. Jesus commissions Peter to Feed his Sheep, the flock of God. Indeed Peter was to be one of the most significant Apostles in the early Church, teaching and nurturing the people of God. He would follow him all the way to his own martyr's death predicted by Jesus here.

Humanly Peter wants to know God's plans for John. It's a looking over his shoulder moment, perhaps a little jealousy at the special relationship Jesus seems to have with John. Jesus replies by emphasising that Peter needs to concentrate on following him for himself.

Discussion Starters

- What do you think Peter felt like as Jesus put to him these questions? Do you ever feel the same?
- What do you think it means for us to love the Lord? How do we get to show it?
- Do you what it is to feel failure and shame in God's sight? What do you think Jesus says to us if we do?
- Do you think there can be a danger for us in comparing ourselves to others as Peter was tempted to do? What would Jesus say?

Prayer time

Please pray for needs that are known or shared. Please also pray for our Alpha Course coming up, that God would bring to it the people that He wants there.

