

John 21:15-25

John 21:15-19 *“(15) So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. (16) He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. (17) He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest 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 thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. (18) Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not. (19) This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.”*

A. The Lord wants all of His disciples to love Him more than anything else (**Matthew 10:37, Matthew 22:37, and Philippians 3:7-9**).

1. Love is shown through action (**John 14:15, John 14:21-24, John 15:10, II John 6, and I John 5:3**).

2. If you don't love the Lord Jesus Christ, you are accursed (**I Corinthians 16:22**).

B. As an Apostle (**II Peter 1:1**) and later an elder in the body of Christ (**I Peter 5:1-4**), Peter needed to spiritually feed the followers of Christ (**Jeremiah 3:15 and Acts 20:28**; cf. **Luke 4:4**).

1. Jesus gave His life for us, His sheep (**John 10:11**).

2. Disciples of the Lord are His sheep (**Matthew 10:16 and John 10:27**).

C. With one exception (**Matthew 24:35-36**), Jesus knows all things (**Matthew 9:4, John 2:24-25, John 5:39-42, and I John 3:20**).

1. Jesus, knowing the future, was certainly capable of prophesying (**Matthew 21:11, Luke 24:4-7, Luke 24:19, and Acts 3:22-26**).

2. Jesus foretold of Peter's later days of life wherein he would not be free to move about, but would be bound and carried about at the will of others. Paul was also foretold of things that were to come in his life (i.e. **Acts 21:10-11**).

3. We later see this time came in Peter's life (**II Peter 1:11-14**).

John 21:20-23 *“(20) Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? (21) Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? (22) Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. (23) Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?”*

A. Peter responded to the prophecy concerning his death by asking about the death of the “disciple whom Jesus loved” (cf. **John 13:23-26, John 19:26, John 20:2, and John 21:7**).

1. This disciple COULD be Lazarus (**John 11:1-5**).
2. Regardless of who it was, Jesus (whom is deity; **Romans 9:1-5**) did not need to answer to Peter about anything (**Job 33:12-13, Acts 1:7, Romans 9:20, and Romans 11:33-36**).

B. It is written: “...yet Jesus said not unto him...” (**John 21:23**).

1. Truth is often twisted when ignorance is present (**II Peter 3:15-18**).
2. At that time, as the mystery was slowly unveiled, all of the Apostles were still in a state of ignorance (**I Corinthians 8:2 and I Corinthians 13:8-12**).

John 21:24-25 “(24) *This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. (25) And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.*”

A. John signs off his writing by stating that he can testify of the things written therein (**John 1:14, I John 1:1-3, and I John 4:14**).

1. The Apostles were not just writing what other men told them (**II Peter 1:16-21**).
2. In addition to being eyewitnesses of the things they wrote of, the Apostles also had guidance from the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 10:16-20, John 14:26, John 16:13, I Corinthians 2:9-13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I John 2:27**; cf. **II Samuel 23:2 and Job 32:8**).

B. There is no way that John could have given an account of all that the Lord did (cf. **Psalms 40:5**).

1. For example, Paul later quotes words from Christ that you cannot find in Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John (**Acts 20:35**).
2. There were many works that were done by godly people, which are not completely detailed for us in the Scriptures (**Hebrews 11:32-38**).
3. What things are written are the things we need to know (**Deuteronomy 29:29, John 20:30-31, and II Peter 1:3-4**).