

FEED MY SHEEP

This message to “Feed My Sheep” came as a command to me sometime during the night of Jan.12, while dreaming. Often, before I doze off at night, I’m in prayer over various things. On this night, I recall a dream I had, which I shared with Marina the next day. It was simple and short, I recall (again, in the dream) struggling up a rocky hill and somewhere near the top I remember asking the Lord (out loud) what should I be doing right now. His response, “Feed My Sheep,” and the dream was over.

If you recall from Scripture, it was during the discourse between Jesus and Peter that Jesus told Peter, and He told us, what we’re supposed to be doing (ref. John 21: 15-17). We know from our Bible studies that Jesus initiated this conversation for two (2) reasons: 1) To restore Peter (following his denial), and 2) To issue a command to Peter and to you and me, which must be rooted in a foundational love for our Savior, Jesus Christ

Was Jesus unaware of Peter’s love? Of course not. His threefold question was not for Himself, but for Peter. He asked His questions to underscore the essential truth that only love for Christ would sustain Peter in the work that lay ahead - that difficult, demanding work of caring for people’s souls - perhaps the hardest work of all.

Jesus did not ask Peter if he loved His sheep, but if he loved *Him*. Affection for God’s people will not sustain us. His sheep can be unresponsive, unappreciative, and harshly critical of our efforts to love and to serve them. In the end, we will find ourselves defeated and discouraged if that is our means and motivation to care for them.

The “love of Christ” - our love for Him - is the only sufficient motivation that will enable us to stay the course, to continue to feed the flock of God. Thus, Jesus asks you and me, “Do you love Me? ... (our response, Yes) ... then, Feed My sheep.”

If you ever find yourself in doubt of what God’s will and purpose for your life is, you (and I) already have the answer; we’re to be about our Lord’s business of **Feeding His Sheep**.

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