

**Theme:** Jesus came to Peter to renew him in his favor and grace, and to present his call to Peter as a shepherd of the flock. If we are to serve the Lord well it must be from the position of wholeness and grace, which only comes through forgiveness and restoration in Christ.

**Background:** Third time Jesus appeared to the disciples. Now he speaks to Peter.

**Introduction:** The love/hate relationship with the dentist

## **I. The Appointment (15-17)**

A. Peter’s desire – Drawn to Jesus  
- He wants to be with Jesus  
- Ready to serve

B. Peter’s dread

1. The elephant in the room – who is going to “bring it up?”
2. Jesus speaks to “Simon Peter, son of John”

NOTE: What did your mom call you when you were in trouble?

## **II. The Penetrating Question – “Do You Love Me?”**

A. One “love” or two? Are we to see two kinds of love, or not?

1. John uses the two interchangeably throughout the gospel
  - For the “beloved disciple” use both (13:23; 20:2)
  - For the love of the Father for the Son (3:35; 5:20)
  - For Jesus’ love Lazarus – both used (11:5,36)
2. Greek translation of the Old Testament (LXX) (Done in 3<sup>rd</sup> Century, BC)
  - Doesn’t make a distinction
  - 2 Samuel 13; Proverbs 8:17
3. 2 Timothy 4:10

B. The *heart* of the matter

1. More than these?
  - a. More than these other disciples love me?
  - b. His “boast” Matthew 26:33; 13:37
2. Peter’s revealing answer
  - a. Piercing the heart

NOTE: Before Jesus can restore him to service – he needs to see his heart restored!

- b. No comparisons
  - Answer is not in relation to anyone else
- c. Appealing to his omniscient Lord
  - 1) Jesus already *knows*
  - 2) Humility has replaced pride
3. All is well??
  - “Feed my lambs”
  - Great relief – but...

### III. The Confession

A. Three “denials” – three “confessions”

B. *You Know I Love You*

1. He has no other plea
2. He is grieved!

NOTE: How “public” is this? Who is overhearing this exchange?

APPLICATION: Our words matter!! Promises and vows should be kept. And be prepared to give an account.

But why put Peter through this??

C. For His Good

1. Removing all doubt – Jesus accepts, loves, forgives
2. Removing the stain & weight of his sin and failure
  - The “bitter tears” (Luke 22:62) are dried
  - Can lay down the weight of sin
3. Freed to serve – With a free heart and a clear conscience
4. Disciplining those he loves (Hebrews 12:7-11)

### IV. The Commission

A. A pastoral charge

1. To share the good news (20:21)
2. To care for the flock

B. “Feed/Tend...My Sheep”

1. Shepherd is not a title – it’s a task!
  - Tend, feed – *care* for them (all verbs)
2. Their welfare over your own
3. “My sheep...My lambs” – Not Peter’s flock/sheep. They belong to the Lord!

C. Peter’s transformation

1. A godly boldness (Acts 4:8; 5:29)
2. Gentleness (1 Peter 2:1-5)
3. A genuine shepherd (1Peter 5:1-5)

### V. The Affirmation (18,19)

A. A prophetic word

1. Your life will be taken from you
2. “Stretch out your hands”
3. To the glory of God!

B. The Perseverance of the Saints – and of *This* Saint

- Peter would suffer and die for the sake of Jesus name
- Assurance that his faith, trust, strength *would not fail*.

C. “Follow me”

1. Peter’s life in Christ began with these words (Mark 1:16,17)
2. “Do you love me?” “Follow me”