

Theme: To believe that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God" is the beginning of faith - not the end. To live and walk in faith we must know Jesus as the "resurrection and the life".

Background & Setting: Jesus makes time to spend alone with Peter.

I. A Question of Love

A. Do you love Me?

1. A broken man
 - "Simon" - not "Peter"
 - With "failure" on his mind (13:37)
 - In need of assurance, restoration
2. Changing his focus
 - a. Moving his eyes
 - from "failure" to the risen Lord
 - b. You know that I love you.

B. More than these?

1. These people?
 - It's not about "them"
2. These things?
 - A comforting occupation?

NOTE: The list of our "comforts" apart from Christ is endless.
3. You know that I love You.

C. Questioned three times

1. First time? - A fair question
2. Second time? - An uncomfortable question
3. Third time? - A painful reminder
 - Three denial - three affirmations

D. Encouraged three times

- Called each time into Christ's service

II. The Response of Love

- Proverbs 27:6 - Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
- Jesus is working to build him up, not tear him down.

A. Sacrifice - He gave His life for us!

1. No greater love
 - John 15:13; John 10:11; I John 3:16
2. To bear our sins! - Forgiveness!
 - Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:5
3. Bearing our sin and shame
 - Psalm 71:1; 1 Peter 2:6

B. Life!

- Resurrection life
- Martha must learn of the life (John 11:21-27)

C. Love

1. Who is before you?? Resurrection and the Life!
 - Risen Lord standing with Peter!
 - Not leaving you or abandoning you
 - Not just intellectual assent, but bringing faith to life!
2. Peter, I love you!
 - Yes, you feel the weight of your sin

- Now feel the strength of My love!

III. The Ultimate Calling

A. Feed/shepherd My sheep

1. Peter's unique calling - Apostle
 - It would cost him his life (v.18) (Luke 9:24)
2. Our calling?
 - Love expressed in action.

B. Follow Me

1. Nothing has changed! (Matthew 4:19)
 - Follow Me!
2. Everything has changed!
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:3 & 4
 - b. Not just with us, but truly in us

Conclusion: One question for us today - for each one of us: Jesus asks, "Do you love Me??"