

**“Feed My Sheep”**  
**John 21:15-19**

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Jesus calls Peter to fulfill his ministry.

**1. Jesus’ Three-fold Question**

vv. 15-17

**(1) Certainly calls to mind Peter’s denials – his great fall**

- Yet, - Peter has been restored; forgiveness is not in question!
- Peter is fully confident in Jesus’ love and acceptance cf. v. 7

**(2) Self-examination is still necessary!**

- 1- A fuller reconciliation with his brothers** *“Simon, son of Jonah,  
do you love Me more than these?”*
  - Peter had *previously claimed* that his love and devotion to be superior.
  - He will no longer make such claims!

**-2- Peter surely has a better knowledge of himself!**

- 3- A fuller submission to Jesus’ knowledge of him and Jesus’ estimation of his love**
  - He had previously disagreed with Jesus’ assessment of him!
  - Peter thought he knew himself well. He did not!

**2. Jesus’ Three-fold Charge**

*“Feed My lambs...Tend My sheep...Feed My sheep.”*

**(1) Assurance**

- Peter not set aside! Not “demoted!”
- Now more valuable than ever! Now particularly fit to serve!

**(2) Great Privilege!**

- To care for the flock of Christ!
- Peter never forgot these words! cf. 1 Peter 5

**3. Jesus’ Prophecy concerning Peter**

v. 18

**(1) The absolute certainty of this prophecy – as it comes from Jesus’ lips.**

- “Most assuredly, I say to you...”*
- Just as certain as Jesus’ prediction of Peter’s denials,  
is this prediction of his faithful service unto death! cf. 13:38

**(2) Peter – a changed man!**

- 1- From self-sufficiency and independency...** *“when you were younger,  
you girded yourself and walked where you wished”*

- Peter used to do his own thing! He used to be self-dependent!

- 2- To trust in Jesus – total dependency on Jesus!** *“but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands,  
and another will gird you and carry you  
where you do not wish.”*

- Now a follower of Jesus!
- Now a child-like dependence!

**(3) Faithful service unto death! v. 19**

*“This He spoke, signifying by what death  
he would glorify God.”*

**(4) The Needful Command** *“Follow Me.”*

**Further Application**