

Gospel of John
[Epilogue: Peter's Recommissioning (John 21:15-17)]

-Occasion: after breakfast (v. 15); Jesus tactfully and lovingly prepares Peter and the others for what He has to say.

I. First Exchange (v. 15)

-Jesus' Question: 'Do you love (agapao) Me more than your fellow disciples do?' Peter's former boast (Matt. 26:33; John 13:37)

-Peter's Response: 'You know that I love (phileo) You.' No distinction between the different words for 'love' should be pressed (3:35; 5:20; 13:35; 20:2). Peter not boastful as he had been (Mark 14:29-31)

-Jesus' Command: 'Tend My lambs.'

II. Second Exchange (v. 16)

-Jesus' Question: 'Do you love (agapao) Me?' Jesus doesn't ask because He doesn't know and needs Information.

-Peter's Response: 'You know that I love (phileo) You.'

-Jesus' Command: 'Shepherd My sheep.' No real difference between tending and shepherding

III. Third Exchange (v. 17)

-Jesus' Question: 'Do you love (phileo) Me?' Peter is grieved that Jesus asks a third time. Carson: "*As Peter had disowned Jesus three times, so Jesus requires this elementary but profound confession three times.*"

-Peter's Response: 'You know (eido) all things. You know (ginosko) that I love (phileo) You.'

-Jesus' Command: 'Tend my sheep.'

Practical Lessons

- 1) God knows everything about us (Heb. 4:13).
- 2) God uses humiliation and painful trial to humble and train His servants (Luke 7:47; Heb. 5:8).
- 3) Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the Chief Shepherd of His sheep (Jer. 3:15; Ezek. 34:1-31; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1).
- 4) Forgiveness doesn't remove all the consequences of sin.
- 5) We all need to come to Jesus (Is. 53:6; John 7:37; 1 Pet. 2:25).