

## John 21:15

*So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."*

*"Do you love Me more than these?"* This is the question that Jesus asked Peter, and I believe there comes a time when we are asked that same question by the Lord.

Now there are few thoughts on what Jesus was talking about when He asked Peter *"Do you love Me more than these?"* Some say that Jesus was pointing to the vast number of fish that they just caught,

† **John 21:10-11** *Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.*

So for us, if Jesus were pointing to the 153 fish that they just caught, which was a huge catch for the fishermen back then, it could represent our job, or a promotion, or an accomplishment that Jesus is asking us if we love that more than Him.

Another thought is that Jesus was pointing to the other Disciples.

† **John 21:8** *But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.*

For us that could mean our friends or family or coworkers or even church family.

Maybe it's a combination of both, *"But the other disciples came in the little boat, dragging the net with fish."* which could equate to a life long dream we have had, or even our ministry, because some people can get so caught up in ministry, that they forget what it's all about, which is bringing glory to God the Father and Jesus, yet they spend so much time on it, that the Lord takes a backseat to the ministry.

I know for me when I was recording my first worship album, I had about four or five songs in a listenable state, so I was listening to them in my car as I was driving home, and as I was, I sensed the Lord asking me, *"What if I told you to stop right now and not do this worship album?"* When the Lord asked me that, I had to check my heart, because I had dreamed and longed to do this worship album for years. I even remember a few years before I started it, that the Lord gave me a vision for the album cover, and at this time the perfect opportunity came where I could focus 100% of my time on it.

So, I turned off the music, and did just that, I checked my heart; and after doing so, I told the Lord that I would stop it right then and there if that was His will.

So did I have to stop it and not record it. No, because I have recorded eight albums since then, because the Lord knew my heart, and that I would have stopped if He told me to. After all, it was for Him. It was not for me or so I could receive any recognition for it. You see, if it were about me, or I wanted to become rich and famous with it, I would have made excuses to the Lord why I should not have to quit recording and keep doing it.

So when we are asked that question ***“do you love Me more than these?”*** If we have to come up with reasons to hang on to it, or that person, then the answer really is, *“Yes Lord, I love them or it more than You.”* You see, the question of ***“do you love Me more than these?”*** is not for the Lord’s sake, because He already knows the answer. But it’s more for our sake, where we must check our hearts and make sure we have not made something, like a job, a ministry, an object, an education, or even a person like a spouse, family member, a friend, or even a dream, into a god that we are putting before the Lord.

Think of that thing, or person that is most precious to you right now, and maybe has been for years. So, if Jesus asked you ***“do you love Me more than these?”*** we would so easily say “Yes”? Because words are easy to say, but to back them up is harder to do.

† **Matthew 21:28-31a** ***“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said to Him, “The first.”***

Also, if you read the account of Jesus asking Peter about his love for Him.

The first time Jesus asked Peter, ***“do you love Me more than these?”***

But the second and third time Jesus simply asked, ***“Do you love Me?”***

So before you answer, check your heart, because the Lord already knows the answer. The real question is, do you really know if ***“you love Me more than these?”*** and Jesus’ response will be, that if you love Me, then be obedient to Me, even if I tell you to give something, or someone up.

† **John 21:17 (MSG)** ***Then he said it a third time: “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, “Do you love me?” so he answered, “Master, you know everything there is to know. You’ve got to know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”***

† **Matthew 16:26** ***For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?***

† **Mark 12:30 (NLT2)** ***And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.***