

## John 21:15-17

**15-17.** 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.**" He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you LOVE Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord, You know that I LOVE You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you LOVE Me?" **Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?"** And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I LOVE You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

- **Ephesians 6:24** "Grace be with all those who \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Christ in \_\_\_\_\_. Amen."
- **John 14:21** "He who has My \_\_\_\_\_ and keeps them, it is he who \_\_\_\_\_ Me. And he who \_\_\_\_\_ Me will be \_\_\_\_\_ by My \_\_\_\_\_, and I will \_\_\_\_\_ him and manifest (show, reveal) Myself to him."
- **John 14:15** "If you \_\_\_\_\_ Me, \_\_\_\_\_ My \_\_\_\_\_."
- **I John 4:9-11** "In this the \_\_\_\_\_ of God was manifested toward us, that God sent His only begotten \_\_\_\_\_ into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is \_\_\_\_\_, not that we \_\_\_\_\_ God, but that He \_\_\_\_\_ us and sent His \_\_\_\_\_ to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so \_\_\_\_\_ us, we also ought to \_\_\_\_\_ one another."

**Definition: "Do you LOVE Me more than THESE?"** - Most Bible teachers are in agreement that the "more than these" does not mean "Do you love Me more than these other disciples?" but "Do you love Me **more than THESE - your fishing boat, nets, and style of life as a fisherman?**" It is the question Jesus asks ALL of us, one way or another: are we willing to give up our old lifestyle in order to follow him? This **old lifestyle is often called "the world"** in the Bible, because before we were saved, everything we did was based on what is out there in this world. Now, as Christians, we are to base our new life on God's word, not on worldly wisdom and ideas.

- **I John 2:15-16** "Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the world or the \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_. If anyone \_\_\_\_\_ the world, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ but is of the world."
- **Luke 7:41-43 & 47** "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had \_\_\_\_\_ with which to repay, he freely \_\_\_\_\_ them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will \_\_\_\_\_ him more?" Simon answered and said, 'I suppose the one whom he \_\_\_\_\_ more.' And He said to him, 'You have rightly judged.'" "Therefore I say to you, her \_\_\_\_\_, which are \_\_\_\_\_, are forgiven, for she \_\_\_\_\_ much. But to whom little is \_\_\_\_\_, the same \_\_\_\_\_ little."
- **James 4:4** "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the \_\_\_\_\_ makes himself an \_\_\_\_\_ of God."

**Definition: "Whoever wants to be a FRIEND of the WORLD"** - Being a "friend of the world" or **loving the things of this world** more than how much we love Jesus is a problem with a lot of us. God's word says it is a very serious problem, though, and actually **makes us enemies of God** when we love the world more than we love Him.

In Mark 10:17-23, we see the "Rich Young Ruler" (see also Luke 18:18-25) who has "kept all the commandments from his youth" but who **LOVES his money and possessions more than he LOVES Jesus.**

- **Mark 10:17-23** "Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, 'Good Teacher, \_\_\_\_\_ shall I \_\_\_\_\_ that I may inherit eternal life?' So Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call Me \_\_\_\_\_? No one is good but One, that is \_\_\_\_\_. You know the \_\_\_\_\_, "Do not commit \_\_\_\_\_," "Do not \_\_\_\_\_," "Do not steal," "Do not bear false witness (tell lies)," "Do not defraud (cheat)," "Honor your father and your mother.'" And he answered and said to Him, 'Teacher, all these I have \_\_\_\_\_ from my youth.' Then Jesus, looking at him, \_\_\_\_\_ him, and said to him, 'One thing you \_\_\_\_\_: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and \_\_\_\_\_ Me.' But he was \_\_\_\_\_ at this word, and went \_\_\_\_\_ grieved, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the kingdom of God!'"

**Definition: "No one is GOOD but One, that is GOD"** - Jesus "tested" the rich young ruler in two areas. The first area was in **whether the young man believed Jesus was just a "good man" or the Son of God, actually God in the flesh.** In order for a person to be saved, they must believe in Jesus as the Savior and Son of God, not just a "good man" or a prophet. Jesus is God in human form, in the flesh, so He is good, but He is pointing out to this man that if he's going to call Him "good" he must believe also that Jesus is indeed God.

- **John 20:28-29** "And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My \_\_\_\_\_ and My \_\_\_\_\_!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have \_\_\_\_\_ Me, you have \_\_\_\_\_. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
- **John 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "Jesus, looking at him, LOVED him, and said, 'One thing you LACK"** - Some people get mixed up and confused, and think that Jesus is teaching that we must ALL give up our wealth and possessions and give it to the poor, in order to please God. That is not what Jesus is teaching here, but He is "testing" the rich young man **to see whether he loves his money and material possessions more than God.** It is actually a test to see if the young man has kept the first commandment, which is to "have no other gods before" the one true God. This young man boasted that he had kept all the other commandments, but in this one, the most important, he failed. Obviously, **the rich young man had made his money and possessions his "god"**, because he was sad, and went away, and did not follow Jesus.

- **Deuteronomy 6:5** "And you shall \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ with all your \_\_\_\_\_ and with all your soul and with all your might."
- **Exodus 20:3** "You shall have \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_ before Me."
- **Romans 13:8-10** "Owe no man anything except to love one another, for he who \_\_\_\_\_ another has fulfilled the law. For the \_\_\_\_\_, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not covet,' and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, 'You shall \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbor as yourself.' \_\_\_\_\_ does no harm to a neighbor; therefore \_\_\_\_\_ is the fulfillment of the law."
- **Matthew 22:36-40** "'Teacher, which is the \_\_\_\_\_ commandment in the law?' Jesus said to him, 'You shall \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_"

with all your \_\_\_\_\_, with all your \_\_\_\_\_, and with all your \_\_\_\_\_ . This is the first and great \_\_\_\_\_. And the second is like it: You shall \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Prophets."

**Definition: "Peter was GRIEVED because he said the THIRD time, "Do you love Me?"** - Why do you suppose Jesus asked Peter this question THREE TIMES? Because Peter had DENIED knowing Jesus THREE TIMES after His arrest, and before His crucifixion. Jesus fully restored and forgave Peter, but He wanted to have it really sink in with Peter, so **Jesus repeated it THREE times to counteract the three times Peter denied knowing Him.**

- **John 13:37-38** " \_\_\_\_\_ said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will \_\_\_\_\_ down my \_\_\_\_\_ for Your sake." Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have \_\_\_\_\_ Me \_\_\_\_\_ times."
- **Mark 14:69-72** "And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, 'This is one of them.' But he \_\_\_\_\_ it again. And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, 'Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it.' But he began to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, 'I do not \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ of whom you speak!' And a second time the rooster \_\_\_\_\_. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the rooster crows \_\_\_\_\_, you will \_\_\_\_\_ Me \_\_\_\_\_ times.' And when he thought about it, he \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "Feed My LAMBS"** - God's people are referred to as His sheep many times in both the Old Testament and New Testament. Here, where it says "**lambs,**" **it means the new, baby believers** in particular, who are most vulnerable. God takes very seriously the teaching or "feeding" of His lambs and sheep. Those shepherds (pastors, ministers) who do not feed His sheep properly, or mistreat them, will be severely judged (read Ezekiel 34 and Jeremiah 23), but God says He will send good shepherds to feed them, and of course, Jesus himself is the ultimate Good Shepherd.

- **John 10:11-13** "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ shepherd. The good \_\_\_\_\_ gives His \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_. But he who is a hireling and not the shepherd, one who does not \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, sees the wolf coming and leaves the \_\_\_\_\_ and flees; and the wolf catches the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not \_\_\_\_\_ about the sheep."
- **Ezekiel 34:12 & 15-16** "As a \_\_\_\_\_ seeks out his flock in the day that he is among his \_\_\_\_\_ that are scattered; so will I seek out My \_\_\_\_\_, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." "I will \_\_\_\_\_ My \_\_\_\_\_, and I will cause them to lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was \_\_\_\_\_, and will strengthen that which was sick...."
- **Jeremiah 23:3-4** "And I will gather the remnant of My \_\_\_\_\_ out of all countries .....and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up \_\_\_\_\_ over them which shall \_\_\_\_\_ them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, says the Lord."
- **John 10:26-29** "But you do not believe, because you are not of My \_\_\_\_\_, as I said to you. My \_\_\_\_\_ hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them \_\_\_\_\_ life, and they shall \_\_\_\_\_ perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has \_\_\_\_\_ them to Me, is greater than all; and \_\_\_\_\_ is able to snatch them out of My \_\_\_\_\_ hand."

- **Psalm 95:6-7** "Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of His hand...."
- **Read Luke 15:3-7** "So He spoke this parable (a story illustrating something about God) to them saying, 'What man of you, having a hundred \_\_\_\_\_, if He \_\_\_\_\_ one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the \_\_\_\_\_ which is \_\_\_\_\_ until He finds it? And when He has \_\_\_\_\_ it, He lays it on His shoulders, \_\_\_\_\_. And when He comes home, He calls together His \_\_\_\_\_ and neighbors, saying to them, '\_\_\_\_\_ with Me, for I have \_\_\_\_\_ My \_\_\_\_\_ which was lost!' I say to you that likewise (in the same way) there will be more \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ over one \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.'"