**Peter & Jesus (John 21:15-25)**

Have you ever been reluctant to completely commit yourself to a task? Maybe you knew the task would be difficult, unpleasant, or not as appealing as something you would like to do instead. Maybe the reason you have to do the task is that a loved one is not going to be around to do it himself. As a result you do not want to fully commit, or you are hesitant, or you do not want to talk about, or you do it half-heartedly, or you put it off. I remember my grandmother Addy Massey asking my grandfather Levis Massey to fix the screen door of their farm house. Evidently the task of fixing that screen door was so unpleasant that my grandpa was willing to listen to my grandmother ask him to fix it every time it slammed for years! When my triplet nephews (Gabe, Nate, Jake) were very young I was blessed with a chance to baby sit them. I thought I would put them to work gathering sticks in our yard. As a reward after they completed the task, they would be allowed to watch some episodes of the Lone Ranger. The problem was only one, Gabe, was really motivated and committed to complete the task because he focused on the reward. During the whole time Nate and Jake would half-heartedly collect a stick here and there while Gabe was fully committed to the task with all of his attention and effort. During this Gabe continued to encourage his brothers with a “Come on guys, we need to work harder for Uncle Murray or we will not be allowed to watch the Lone Ranger”.

Peter was given a task by our Lord that he was not fully committed to at first. Let us read **John 21:15-25**.

**Excerpts From Vines:** In **John 21:15, 16, 17**, the Lord, addressing Peter, first uses **No. 1, bosko (ver. 15), then No. 2, poimaino (ver. 16), and then returns to bosko (ver. 17).** These are not simply interchangeable (nor are other variations in His remarks);

Strong's Number: g1006: Greek: bosko (**verse 15-feed My lambs and 17-feed My sheep**): Feed, Fed: "to feed," is primarily used of a herdsman (from boo, "to nourish," the special function being to provide food; the root is bo--, found in boter, "a herdsman or herd," and botane, "fodder, pasture"); its uses are (a) literal, Mat 8:30; in Mat 8:33, the RV corrects the AV, "they that kept," to "they that fed," as in Mar 5:14 (AV and RV); Luke 8:34; in Mar 5:11; Luke 8:32, "feeding;" Luke 15:15; **(b) metaphorical, of spiritual ministry, John 21:15, 17** (see Note on No. 2). See KEEP.

Strong's Number: g4165: Greek: poimaino (**verse 16 – tend My sheep**) : Feed, Fed: "to act as a shepherd" (from poimen, "a shepherd"), is used (a) literally, Luke 17:7, RV, "keeping sheep," for AV, "feeding cattle;" 1Corinthians 9:7; (b) metaphorically, "to tend, to shepherd;" said of Christ, Matthew 2:6, RV, "shall be Shepherd of" (for AV, "shall rule"); of those who act as spiritual shepherds under Him, **John 21:16**, RV, "tend" (for AV "feed"); **so 1 Peter 5:2 (“Shepherd the flock of God”); Acts 20:28 [“Shepherd (care for ESV) the church of God”], "to feed" ("to tend" would have been a consistent rendering; a shepherd does not only "feed" his flock)**; of base shepherds, Jude 1:12. See RULE.

**The lesson to be learned is that, in the spiritual care of God's children, the "feeding" of the flock from the Word of God is the constant and regular necessity; it is to have the foremost place. The tending (which includes this) consists of other acts, of discipline, authority, restoration, material assistance of individuals, but they are incidental in comparison with the "feeding."**

Peter; an apostle of the Lord, a pastor and shepherd of the local flock in Jerusalem is hesitant, reluctant, and not fully committed to take on the task the Lord had asked of him. ***Do you ever feel that way when you know the Lord expects you do to something you would rather not?*** I know I have felt that way from time to time.

Let us now read **Acts 4:17-22 & 5:27-32**. ***What changed Peter’s attitude and zeal? What happened between John chapter 21 and Acts chapters 4 and 5?*** What happened was that Peter witnessed the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. Now in the book of Acts we see a committed and motivated Peter, a Peter who is willing to sacrifice for His Lord, a Peter who is willing to complete the difficult tasks that Jesus expects of Him, and a Peter focused on his reward in Heaven!

We see this transformation in Peter because of what Jesus did for him. ***Do you need to change like Peter did? Do you need to remember what Jesus did for you so that you will be fully committed to His cause? Maybe you need to take your life as a Christian more seriously as Peter learned in his life? Maybe you have been reluctant to fully commit your life to the one who died for you?*** If this is the case, why not repent and change like Peter did? Increase your faith and boldness in your savior Jesus Christ!

If you are not a Christian this morning, please listen closely to the words of the apostle Peter in **Acts 2:38-41**.

Please come forward while we stand and sing if we can help now!