

## Renewed Love

John 21:17

Well, thank you once again for allowing me to come into your home, into your car, wherever you're at today to bring you the Word of God. Now, we're going to look at several Scriptures today and we want to start in John chapter 21. And I want to speak to you for the next few minutes on renewed love.

In John chapter 21, we read about how that, after the crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord, He appeared unto the disciples and He appeared unto Peter. And, of course, we know that Peter denied the Lord just before the Lord was crucified, and we're going to read about that in just a moment from the Scriptures. But Jesus asked Peter three times, "Peter, do you love Me?" And in verse 17 of John 21, it says, *He saith unto him the third time, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me?* The Bible tells us that: *Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

Well, I believe that there's a need today for renewed love in our hearts. We need to have a renewed love affair with the Lord. We need to have Him wrap us in His arms; we need to wrap our arms around Him. We need a renewed love in the Lord today.

Now, Peter, before the crucifixion....certain things went on there that this is one of the reasons the Lord asked him in John 21, [L]ovest thou me? In Matthew 26:30-35, the Bible says, <sup>30</sup>*And when they had sung an hymn....*Now, this was just after the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Lord. After this was instituted, it says, and after they had sung a hymn, *they went out into the mount of Olives.* <sup>31</sup>*Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of*

*the flock shall be scattered abroad.* <sup>32</sup>*But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.* <sup>33</sup>*Peter answered and said unto him, Though all [men] shall be offended because of thee, [yet] will I never be offended.* <sup>34</sup>*Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.* <sup>35</sup>*Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.*

Now, we know by reading the account that Peter did deny Him, that this was done for a certain purpose. In Matthew 26:56, it says, *But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.* Now, we often look at Peter here and we say, "What a rascal! He denied the Lord. He fled from the Lord." But notice that it says there in that verse in Matthew 26:56, *Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.* Not only did Peter deny the Lord and flee, but we know that by reading the Scriptures that all people forsook Him at the cross.

Well, the last time Peter saw Jesus until the resurrection is found in Luke 22, verses 54-62, and it says there that, <sup>54</sup>*Then took they him, and led [him], and brought him....*this is Jesus.... *into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.* <sup>55</sup>*And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.*

And we know by reading this account that Peter denied Him, and, yes, he denied Him three times, and then the cock crowed. And we understand that, in verse 62, Peter was starting to get back to his first love. He started to have a renewed love even there, because in verse 62 of Luke chapter 22, it says, *And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.*

In II Corinthians chapter 7, verses 10 and 11, it says, <sup>10</sup>*For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.* <sup>11</sup>*For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, [what] clearing of yourselves, yea, [what] indignation, yea, [what] fear, yea, [what] vehement desire, yea, [what] zeal, yea, [what] revenge! In all [things] ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.*

We need to have a renewed love today, and I submit to you today, if you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior, you cannot have a renewed love. You need a new love. You need to ask Him to come into your heart. You need to ask him, "Lord Jesus, please save me. Come into my heart. I receive You as my Lord and Savior. I want....I want, Lord, to know the love that only You can show me." The Bible says that no one has loved like the Lord, like Jesus, and we're going to see that in just a few moments. But if you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior, you need a new love today. You need to ask Jesus to come into your heart.

Well, in Luke chapter 23, verses 33-38, we read of the crucifixion of our Lord. And it talks about, as they came to a place called Calvary, [T]here they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. And I want you to know something today, that Jesus Christ loved man even while He was on the cross. Jesus Christ wanted the best for man while He was on the cross. In fact, that's the reason He went to the cross was for man. He went to the cross that we could have eternal life, even on the cross, Jesus said....and it was sad when He said, *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34). And as He looked around, He said, *I thirst* (John 19:28). And what did man do for Him? Man brought Him vinegar instead of water. He was suffering. He suffered

more than any person has ever suffered in this world.

And then, He said, *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do* (Luke 23:34). Jesus loved. He loved you and me, and He's the reason that I can say today that I'm on my way to Heaven because of what Jesus did on that cross. My sins were nailed to that cross. His blood cleanses me from all unrighteousness.

The resurrection took place. We read that in John chapter 20. In John chapter 20, we read how that He appeared to people. Did Jesus resurrect? Don't tell me He didn't resurrect. The Bible tells us that He did. In John chapter 20, verses 11-16, Luke 24:13-15; John 20:19-20; and John 20:24-29. These verses tell us about the resurrection of Jesus, and we read on and we find that He was seen of over 500 people after His resurrection. He's alive. He lives today, and because He lives, we can live. We can know that we are on our way to Heaven.

Well, we see that by reading the account that we've gone through here and these verses that we're about to see, that there was a renewed love that took place in the life of Peter. Peter did love the Lord and we ask ourselves, "Did he really love the Lord?" In John chapter 21 and verse 18, it says, *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself....this is Jesus talking to Peter now; this is before the crucifixion. He said When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry [thee] whither thou wouldst not.*

Did Peter love Jesus? Yes, he did. He proved it by laying down his life for our Lord. Christian tradition tells us that Peter, after preaching so many years, was crucified, and he thought, "I'm not as great as my Lord. I'm not as good as my Lord. I don't deserve to be crucified like Him."

And so we're told that he was crucified upside down. Did Peter love? Yes, he loved. In Acts chapter 1 and Acts chapter 2 and so forth, we read how that Peter preached the Word of God. He preached the Gospel. And we're told through those verses that on one occasion alone, on one occasion alone, there was over 3,000 people who got saved. And the Bible tells us there was added over 3,000 people added to the church after he preached on just that one occasion.

Well, did Jesus love? John 15:13 says, *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.* Jesus loved more than anyone has ever loved or will ever love again. He loves you today, and He wants you to live for Him. He wants you to know Him as your Savior.

What do we do to renew our love today? We need to remember. Revelation 2:5 says, *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.* The first thing we need to do today is remember. We need to remember who we are. Remember who Jesus is. Remember that he died for us and that He's alive today. We need to repent. Luke 22:62 says, *And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.* Peter repented. It was a Godly repentance. It wasn't something that was superficial. He meant it in his heart. Do you mean it in your heart today? Ask Jesus to come into your heart.

And then, finally, we see that we need to do the first works to have renewed love. John 21:7 says, *Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt [his] fisher's coat [unto him], (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.* It was no accident that these fellows were fishing. Jesus had first seen them. These people were fisherman, and Jesus called them as they were fishing by the seashore there. And you go back and you read the account of how

these disciples, these apostles, came to Jesus. Jesus came and said, "Follow me." They had been fishing, and this was no different. This was after the resurrection of Christ. Jesus said, "It is I. Be not afraid." Peter loved Jesus. We need to do our first works. We need to get back to the place where God can use us as Christians.

Are you saved today? Do you know Jesus as your Savior? If not, let me invite you to bow your head right where you're at and ask Jesus to come into your heart right now. "Lord Jesus, come into my heart. I receive you as my Savior."

If you are saved, get that renewed love today with the Lord. Renew that relationship. Ask Jesus to use you for His honor and His glory.

Well, it's been good being with you today, and let me remind you that you can get a free transcript of this program and other programs of "It's a Good Life" by going to our website, [www.LRWM.org](http://www.LRWM.org). You can receive a free transcript of this program there, and you can also write me today, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731.

Now, if you would like to, write me and let me know about any prayer requests you have, or go to the website and you can leave requests there. I'll be glad to pray with you for the requests that you have on your heart. Now, you've heard me speak today. Let me hear from you. Write me.

Thank you for joining me today, and till this same time next week, until you hear me say "It's a good life," may the Lord bless you richly in my prayer.