



*When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."*

John 21:15-17 (NIV)

### Context

- Author: Apostle John
- When: A.D. 85-90
- Theme: Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in Him will have eternal life.

### Jesus, the Navigator of our hearts

*He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish."*

John 21:5-6 (NIV)

*"It happens very often that the man with the hand-net must rely on the advice of someone on shore... because in the clear water he can often see a school of fish invisible to the man in the water... Jesus was acting as a guide to his disciples."*

– William Barclay

### Peter ran to Jesus with...

- John 21:7 (NIV)
- By eagerly **jumping into the water** and **putting on his outer garment** to show proper respect.

### The unforgettable breakfast

- John 21:9-12 (NIV)
- Jesus invited His disciples to have a holy supper.
- The Holy Communion captures this holy breakfast scene.

### Major shift in the Story

- John 21:15-17 (NIV)
- Jesus called Peter by his full name.
- **Agape (Greek):** The sacrificial or unconditional love of God.
- **Phileo (Greek):** "Friendship love" ... "Brotherly or sisterly love."

### **Peter's reinstatement**

- *“Jesus, in His gracious forgiveness, gave Peter the chance to wipe out the memory of the threefold denial by a threefold declaration of love.”*  
– William Barclay
- Peter's call to shepherd God's church was reinstated in this chapter.

**Our faith journey is not measured by our righteousness,  
but it is measured by our faith in our Savior, who alone is righteous.**  
(Philippians 3:9)

### **RENEWING OUR COVENANT WITH GOD**

#### Prayer of Confession

**God our Father, You have shown us the way to life in Jesus:**

**We confess with shame our slowness to love Him more and our reluctance to follow Him.**

**You have spoken and called us, but we have failed to listen.**

**You have shown us Your glory, but we have been too blind to see.**

**We have received countless blessings, but have given You little thanks.**

**We are unworthy of Your changeless love.**

**God, have mercy on me according to Your overwhelming love and kindness. Forgive me, Lord, and cleanse me of my sin. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Amen.**

#### The Covenant Renewal

And now, let us commit ourselves in covenant to Christ as His servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests; others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

The Covenant Prayer

**I am no longer my own, but yours.**

**Put me to what you will. Place me with whom you will.**

**Put me to doing. Put me to suffering.**

**Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,**

**praised for you or criticized for you.**

**Let me be full. Let me be empty.**

**Let me have all things. Let me have nothing.**

**I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.**

**And now, O wonderful and holy God,**

**Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,**

**You are mine, and I am Yours.**

**So be it.**

**And the covenant, which I have made on earth,**

**let it also be made in heaven.**

**Amen.**