



Believing Christ - Responding to John's Gospel

John 15:15-25. "Do You Still Love Me?"

"All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on God being with them."

J. Hudson Taylor

John 21:15-17

- Peter denied him before others – Jesus now questions him before the brothers.
- Peter is questioned the same number of times he denied Jesus.
- Jesus does not condemn him for his PAST - "Why did you...?" but asks him about his PRESENT relationship – "Do you love me...?"

The question of our love for Jesus "is the basis of all genuine Christianity... The test is not moral perfection, not academic excellence, not brilliance in ministry, not a display of spiritual gifts, not any agenda of our own, but simply a relationship with Jesus the risen Lord, one of wholehearted devotion and love for him. Jesus is interested in one thing – do we love him?"

Jey J. Kanagaraj and Ian S. Kemp, *The Gospel According to John*, (Singapore: Asia Theological Association, 2002), page 411 and 412.

John 21:15-17

- "Do you love me more than these?" – Who or what are the "these" referred to – either the other disciples, or the context of where they were – fishing boats, water, the life Peter knew.
- Jesus and Peter use different words for love – "Agapao" and "Phileo".
- Peter is being restored progressively back to full leadership.

"When Christ calls a man, he bids him "Come and die." . . . Only a man who is dead to his own will can follow Christ."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

APPLICATION

What does Peter's Restoration by Jesus call us to today?