

Day 21

Feed my Sheep.

John 21:17

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”. (John 21:17)

Peter was sure that he would never deny Jesus. Some might say his past actions and declarations of faith confirmed he would never deny the Lord. But Jesus said it – Peter would deny Him. Not just once, but three times, in close succession and with increased intensity, while he warmed himself by the fire. This denial evoked deep regret within Peter.

But there is hope; Peter was chosen, renamed, and called by the Lord. There was hope before Peter’s denial because Jesus prayed for him. There was hope after Peter’s denial, because the Lord called Peter to a place of restoration in heart, confession and calling. Peter declared his love for Jesus three times. Peter declared a fresh revelation of the Lord who ‘knows all things’. Peter was commissioned to step into his calling as an Apostle of the early church.

Jesus, in His infinite mercy, chooses us to love and serve Him. When we falter, He calls us to Himself to reach a deeper understanding of His great love and mercy, so we can continue to walk worthy of the calling we have been called. You are called. If a sense of your own unworthiness is prohibiting you from taking another step in Him, look up to Him – there is hope! Depend on the Lord to carry out your calling in faith and love.

Notes