

Jn 21:1-14 – 2nd great
catch of fish (Lk 5:1-11)

John 21:15–23 (ESV)

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to **Simon Peter**, “**Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?**” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; **you know** that **I love you.**” He said to him, “**Feed my lambs.**”

¹⁶He said to him a second time, “**Simon, son of John, do you love me?**” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; **you know** that **I love you.**” He said to him, “**Tend my sheep.**”

¹⁷He said to him the third time, “**Simon, son of John, 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 everything; you know** that **I love you.**” Jesus said to him, “**Feed my sheep.**”

¹⁸Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, **you will stretch out your hands**, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.”

¹⁹(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “**Follow me.**” <- Verb tense indicates continual action

²⁰**Peter** turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?”

²¹When **Peter** saw him, he said to Jesus, “**Lord, what about this man?**”

²²Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!”

²³So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”

The three questions Jesus addressed to Peter stand in contrast to:

-His three denials

- Mt 26:69-75
- Mk 14:66-72
- Lk 22:54-62
- Jn 18:15-18

-His previous declarations

- Lk 22:31-33
- Jn 13:33-38
- Mt 26:31-35
- Mk 14:27-31

Sheep

-Jesus' instruction takes three different forms

(1) **Feed my lambs ἀρνίον (arnion):**

Be a teacher to those just beginning their walk with Christ.

(2) **Tend my sheep πρόβατον (probaton):**

Take care of those who are more mature in their faith.

(3) **Feed my sheep πρόβατον (probaton):**

Continue to teach those who are more mature in their faith.

Love Me

-The first two times Jesus asks this question, he uses the word ἀγαπάω (agapaō)

-The last time Jesus asks the question, he uses the word φιλέω (phileō)

-All three times Peter answers with the word φιλέω (phileō)

-While these words are similar in conveying a primary love, but phileō is closer to affection or friendship.

More than These

-Three possibilities for “These”

(1) You love the other disciples

(2) **The other disciples love Christ**

(3) You love the things you are doing today (i.e. fishing)

You Know

Instead of boasting in himself like in his previous declarations, Peter appeals to the knowledge of Christ for the answer.

What About This Man?

Why did Peter ask this about John?

Second Great Catch of Fish

John 21:1–14 (ESV)

¹ After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, “**Children, do you have any fish?**” They answered him, “No.” ⁶ He said to them, “**Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.**” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “**Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.**” ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “**Come and have breakfast.**” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Peter’s Three Denials

Matthew 26:69–75 (ESV)

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” ⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” ⁷¹ And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁷² And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” ⁷⁴ Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “**Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.**” And he went out and wept bitterly.

Mark 14:66–72 (ESV)

⁶⁶ And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷ and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. ⁶⁹ And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” ⁷⁰ But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” ⁷¹ But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” ⁷² And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, **“Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.”** And he broke down and wept.

Luke 22:54–62 (ESV)

⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house, and Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” ⁵⁸ And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” ⁵⁹ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” ⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, **“Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.”** ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

John 18:15–18 (ESV)

¹⁵ Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸ Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

Peter's Previous Declarations

Luke 22:31–33 (ESV)

³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” ³³ Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.”

John 13:33–38 (ESV)

³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.” ³⁷ Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” ³⁸ Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.”

Matthew 26:31–35 (ESV)

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’” ³² But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ³³ Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” ³⁴ Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” ³⁵ Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.

Mark 14:27–31 (ESV)

²⁷ And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’” ²⁸ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ²⁹ Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” ³⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” ³¹ But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.

Love Me

26 ἀγαπάω (*agapaō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 170; Str 25; TDNT 1.21—**1.** LN 25.43 **love**, (Jn 13:34–35); **2.** LN 25.44 **show love**, demonstrate love (1Jn 3:17); **3.** LN 25.104 **take pleasure in**, to love based on its regarded value (Jn 12:43)¹

5797 φιλέω (*phileō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 170, 5975; Str 5368; TDNT 9.114—**1.** LN 25.33 **love**, a primary love, not unlike ἀγαπάω (*agapaō*), et.al., yet semantically favors an affection based in interpersonal association (Mt 10:37; Jn 5:20; 11:3, 36; 12:25; 15:19; 16:27; 20:2; 21:15, 16, 17; 1Co 16:22; Tit 3:15; Rev 3:19; 22:15+); **2.** LN 25.103 **like to**, to particularly like to or enjoy to do something (Mt 6:5; 23:6; Lk 20:46+); **3.** LN 34.62 **kiss**, either as a greeting, or possibly a sign of familial-like affection (Mt 26:48; Mk 14:44; Lk 22:47+)

φίλη (*philē*), ης (*ēs*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem. [BAGD adj.] [served by 5813]; ≡ Str 5384—LN 34.12 **friend** (Lk 15:9+)²

Sheep

768 ἀρνίον (*arnion*), ου (*ou*), τό (*to*): n.neu.; ≡ Str 721; TDNT 1.340—**1.** LN 4.25 **sheep**, lamb (Rev 13:11); **2.** LN 11.29 **follower of Christ** (Jn 21:15); **3.** LN 4.26 **the Lamb (a title for Christ)** (Rev 5:6–22:3 *passim*)

ἄρον (*aron*): vb. [2P SG AOR1 IMV ACT] [served by 149]; ≡ Str 142—**Take away!**, repeated, with force of an interjection (Jn 19:15+); not in LN³

4585 πρόβατον (*probaton*), ου (*ou*), τό (*to*): n.neu.; ≡ DBLHebr 7366; Str 4263—**1.** LN 4.22 **sheep** (Mt 9:36; 12:11; Lk 14:5 v.r.; Rev 21:4 v.r.); **2.** LN 11.30 one in God or Christ's care and possession, formally, a sheep (Mt 10:6; Jn 10:27); **3.** LN 88.233 **pretend to be good** (Mt 7:15+), see 1903⁴

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

³ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁴ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.