

Jn 21:15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, 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."

21:16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

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."

21:18 "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."

21:19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

21:20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

21:21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?"

21:22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

21:23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"

21:24 This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

21:25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

Good morning, everyone.

I hope you had a lively time with your families during the holidays. I hope you were busy with rice planting.

It is now May. I hope you are taking good care of yourselves as the days get hotter and hotter.

I am reminded of the warm and beautiful event on the shore of Lake Galilee last week.

We were reminded of the image of God as a parent who warmly cares for His children, feeding them and raising them in the Lord's warm home, calling out to them, "Child," from His Word.

Today we continue that story.

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these men love you?"

The question that occurs to me is why Jesus asked Peter, citing the other disciples, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these men love you? I think this has to do with Peter's character and the position he had previously held among the disciples before Jesus.

Matthew 16:15 Then Jesus said to them, "Who then do you say that I am?"

16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

16:17 Then Jesus turned to him and said, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jona! For it is not flesh and blood that has revealed this to thee, but my Father who is in heaven.

16:18 And I say unto thee, Thou art Peter. 16:18 And I say unto thee, Thou art Peter, and I am Peter. And I will build my church upon this rock. And the powers of Hades shall not prevail against it.

As if he had made a confession of faith, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:22 Then Peter pulled Jesus aside and began to chastise Him, saying, "Lord, this is an absurd thing. He said, "Lord, this is an outrageous thing.

16:23 And Jesus turned around and said to Peter, "Pull back, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. You think not of God, but of men."

And thus said the Lord,

Luke 22:33 Simon said, "Lord, I am ready to go with you even to prison and even to death.

And even after saying this,

22:34 Then Jesus said, "Peter, I say to you, I am ready to go with you even to prison and even to death. Today, before the cock cries, you will say three times that you do not know me.

And he said to him, "I am the Christ,

22:31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan is permitted to wish to sift you as wheat.

22:32 But I prayed for thee, that thy faith might not fail; and thy faith was not lost. So when you get back on your feet, give strength to your brothers."

In this prayer of the Lord, Peter was finally able to go on without losing faith, but it seems that the Lord always entrusted Peter with the lead of the flock.

Luke 22:28 Ye are they which persevered with me to the end during my trial.

During the trials, the disciples wavered, failed, denied the Lord, and fled in scattered groups because of the fierce situation. In the midst of intense circumstances and in the midst of human weakness, Peter always revealed a love and devotion to the Lord that surpassed that of the other disciples. The Lord knew Peter's heart, and I believe that Jesus labored and spoke to Peter with the nuance, "I know that you have loved me more than anyone else. The Lord knows our weakness, our eagerness, and our fragility. He knows our weaknesses, our eagerness, and our fragility, and He speaks warm words of encouragement to understand us, to believe in us, to expect us, and to go on as we are.

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these men love you? Peter said, "Yes, Lord. Thou knowest that I love Thee." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

To this Jesus spoke to him, Peter replied, "As You know, as You have believed, as You have come to see, I will continue to love You. Then the Lord said, "Feed my lambs.

The Lord is a weak and fragile being, yet at the time of the dragon's head and tail, He only gained momentum and said, "Keep your eyes awake and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The heart is hot, but the body is weak" (Mark 14:38).

(Matthew 16:17) Then Jesus turned to him and said, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jona! For it is not flesh and blood that has revealed this to thee, but my Father who is in heaven.

16:18 And I say unto thee, Thou art Peter. 16:18 And I say unto thee, Thou art Peter, and I am Peter. And I will build my church upon this rock. The power of Hades shall not prevail against it, neither shall the power of man prevail against it.

Not by the power of man, but by the power of God the Father which is in heaven.

Luke 22:31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan is permitted to wish to sift you as wheat.

22:32 But I prayed for you, that your faith might not fail. So when you have recovered, give strength to your brothers."

And by Jesus' prayer. Simon and the disciples were sustained and kept going in the midst of fierce circumstances, protected so that their faith would not be lost.

Romans 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God, that is, the sons of God.

8:15 For you have not received the spirit of slavery, which makes you fear again, but the spirit that gives you sonship. By that Spirit we call, "Abba, Father.

8:16 He Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God.

8:17 If we are sons, we are also heirs. For if we are heirs of God, and have suffered sufferings to share glory with Christ, then we are joint heirs with him.

8:18 For I think, that the sufferings of this present time will be in due time. For the sufferings of this present time are nothing compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us.

8:19 For indeed the creation longs with eager expectation for the coming of the sons of God.

8:20 For it is not by his own will that the creature has submitted to emptiness, but by him to whom he has been subjected,

8:21 And there remains in the creature itself the hope of being delivered from the bondage of perdition and entering into the glorious freedom of the sons of God.

8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans together and continues to groan and to suffer birth until now.

8:26 The Spirit likewise helps me in my weakness. For we know not how to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that cannot be expressed in words.

8:27 And He who searches the hearts of men knows what the mind of the Spirit is. For the Spirit makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

8:28 For we know that God works with those who love him, those who are called according to his purpose, to make all things work together for good.

8:29 For God has predestined those whom he knew beforehand, that they should be more like the image of his Son. 8:29 For God has predestinated those whom he knew beforehand, that they should be more like his Son, that he might make them the firstborn among many brethren.

8:30 And he called those whom he had predestined, and made them more righteous; and to those whom he had called he gave more glory.

8:31 What then shall we say concerning these things? If God is on our side, who can be against us?

8:32 He that spared not even His own Son, but gave Him up to death for us all, how can He not give us not only His Son, but also all things?

8:33 Who shall reproach the elect of God? For God has made them righteous.

8:34 Who condemneth us? For Christ Jesus died, and rose again, and is seated at the right hand of God, and intercedes for us.

8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Whether tribulation, or affliction, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

8:36 For it is written, "We are appointed unto thee all day long unto death, and to be looked upon as sheep that are slaughtered.

8:37 But in all these things we have more than enough, through Him who loved us.

8:38 I am convinced, because he has loved us, that in all these things we have more than enough to win. 8:38 For I am persuaded, that in all things there is neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, neither things mighty, nor things small, nor things great,

8:39 Neither high things nor deep things, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The groaning intercession of the Holy Spirit. Nothing can separate us from this love of God.

6:10 Finally, I say to you. 6:11 Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his mighty might.

6:11 Put on the armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

6:12 For our warfare is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the principalities of the darkness of this world, and against the spirits of wickedness that are in the heavens.

6:13 Put on therefore the armor of God, that ye may be able to stand firm against the evil day, and to prevail completely.

6:14 Stand up, and gird up the girdle of truth about your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness on your breast,

6:15 Put on the gospel of peace on your feet,

6:16 And take the mane of faith in your hand. 6:16 And take the mane of faith in your hand, that with it you may quench the arrows of fire that the wicked shoot out.

6:17 And put on the helmet of salvation, and take the sword of the Spirit, the word of God.

6:18 Pray and supplicate continually, praying in the Spirit at all times, so that you may awake and not wince, and keep praying for all the saints.

In this way we will help one another and live together, trusting in the Lord's overflowing comforting power, even though we may be weak.

21:16 And again He said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Jesus, "Yes, Lord. Thou knowest that I love thee." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

21:17 The third time Jesus said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter, when

Jesus said to him three times, "Do you love me? You know that I love you. Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

The Lord did not ask the same thing three times over again, as Peter was saddened, not believing in His love, but believing in His love, He spoke even three times, "Feed My sheep, My dear and precious Son, whom I love.

21:18 I tell you well. When you were young, you girded yourself and walked about as you wished. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hand. And others will tie a sash around you and take you where you do not want to go.

21:19 This was spoken by Peter to show what manner of death would reveal the glory of God. After He spoke thus, He said, "Come follow Me.

He used to say, "Withdraw, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. He sometimes "girded himself and walked about as he wished" until he was told, "You think not of God, but of men. Sometimes well, he "thought not of God, but of men". But not so from now on. He will follow the Lord's voice, follow the Lord, and even go where he does not want to live, because of his heart to follow the Lord whom he loves. Jesus told Peter that he would be able to live on the path of "Come follow me.

'I tell you well and truly. When you were young, you girded yourself and walked around as you pleased. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hand. And others will tie a sash around you and take you where you do not want to go." This prophecy of Jesus sounds ominous, but it is the opposite. I tell you well, you are no longer what you were when you were young, when you wanted to go where you wanted and do what you wanted. You will be a follower of me, a follower of me, a faithful follower of me, even unto death. And so will the glory of God be revealed, that is what Jesus said.

21:20 Peter turned around and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following him. This disciple was the one who had leaned close to Jesus' chest at that supper and asked, "Lord, who is this who betrays you?"

21:21 Peter saw this disciple and said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?"

21:22 Jesus said to him, "Even if I had wished him to remain alive until my coming, what business is it of yours? You come and follow me.

21:23 So the rumor spread among the brethren that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did

not say that he would not die, but only, "Even if I had wished for him to survive until my coming, what business is it of yours?"

The disciple whom the Lord loved was John, the man who illustrated this Gospel. John was still young, so the Lord told him that it would be good if the Lord's second coming would take place while he was still alive. Even though Jesus would not come to earth again during the lifetime of the older Peter and the others around his age, Jesus said that it would be good if the Lord's return would take place during the lifetime of the young John. Jesus' kind words are also expressed in his desire to meet with his disciples face to face again.

But 2,000 years have passed since then. The Second Coming has not yet come.

We have read through the book of Revelation. The judgment of the Lord is surely coming, but He has delayed it to this day because of His mercy and patience.

2 Peter 3:8 Beloved, do not forget this one thing. Do not forget this one thing. For in the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like a day.

3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promises, as some people think. 3:9 For the Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise, as some men think; but is long-suffering toward you, desiring that no one should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Timothy 2:4 For God desires all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, and that is the man Christ Jesus.

21:25 And there are many other things which Jesus did. If we were to write them down one by one, the world would not be able to contain them all.

John said that such are the plans, works, and words of the Lord's care and mercy throughout the world to this day, and that His mercy is so inexhaustible that the world could never write it down and keep it. Yes, the Lord's mercy and love are so endless and so boundless that the world will never be able to write them down and keep them.

Psalms 136:26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, whose mercy never ceases.

Prayer; Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship.

Thank you that you understand us, trust us, encourage us, use us in our mission, love us one

another, and encourage us in our ministry of building up the church. Thank you for meeting with the One we are to follow, because following the Lord is our true purpose in life, even though there are many difficulties. Let us go with Jesus this week, in His will and in His blessings. We trust that He will answer our prayers. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.