

TODAY'S LESSON

“DO YOU LOVE ME?”

KRISTOFER GARDANA

JOHN 21:15-17



*Sunday Morning Live Stream
10:30 AM ^{CT} October 12, 2025*



Do You Love Me?

John 21:15-17

Introduction - Do You Love Me?

"Tend My lambs... shepherd My sheep... tend My sheep"

- In **John 21:15-17**, After Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him, and Peter responds that he does love Him, Jesus then says *"tend My lambs... shepherd My sheep... tend My sheep,"*
- This command, though spoken directly to Peter, holds significant implications for all who are entrusted with leadership in the church.
- ***Based on the inspired Word of God, what Peter would be doing both spiritually and practically to fulfill this command?***

What were the practical duties of shepherds as described in the Old Testament?

Consider Psalm 23

- **Psalm 23 Shepherding Tasks Inferred:** Guiding the flock to food and water, ensuring rest and security, protecting from danger, providing a safe, stable environment for the flock to flourish.
- **Consider David's Personal Experience as a Shepherd**
- *"But David said to Saul, 'Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. When there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth.'"* **(1 Samuel 17:34-36)**
- **A shepherd's role was not just to care for the sheep but also to act decisively and courageously when faced with threats.**

What were the practical duties of shepherds as described in the Old Testament?

Consider **Ezekiel 34:2-3** & **Luke 15:3-7**

- **Ezekiel 34:2-3, 11 Shepherding Tasks Inferred:** Ideas from this passage include providing food, protection from threats, guiding sheep back to safety, and ensuring that none are lost or neglected.
- **The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7)**
- *"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?" (Luke 15:4)*

Summary of Practical Tasks of a Shepherd:

- **Feeding:** Ensuring that the sheep have access to green pastures and fresh water.
- **Protection:** Defending the sheep from wild animals, thieves, and other dangers.
- **Guiding:** Leading the sheep to safe areas, guiding them through difficult terrain.
- **Rescuing:** Searching for and retrieving lost sheep, often in challenging conditions.
- **Rest and Care:** Providing a safe environment where the sheep can rest and recover, ensuring they are well-rested and healthy.

The work of a shepherd in the **Old Testament** was demanding and involved not only physical labor but also the responsibility of leadership and care.

Practical Application for Peter and the rest of us...

Loving Jesus By Tending His Sheep

- Practical Tasks of Loving Shepherds
- **1. Preaching the Gospel and Proclaiming Christ**
- **Acts 2:14-41:** Peter's sermon at Pentecost is an example of him fulfilling this command. ***He boldly proclaims the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, calling people to repentance and baptism.***
- **1 Peter 1:22-23, 25:** *"22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God... 25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER."* And this is the word which was preached to you." NASB
- Peter preaches the gospel, the foundation for eternal life and salvation, encouraging believers to stand firm in the truth.

Practical Application for Peter and the rest of us...

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- **2. Caring for the Flock**
- Shepherding includes spiritual care for believers, helping them grow in their faith, providing comfort in times of struggle, and guiding them in their walk with Christ.
- **Acts 20:28:** Paul, speaking to the Ephesian elders, says, *"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."* NASB
- ***This shows that Peter's role, and the role of all elders, is to provide spiritual care to the body of Christ.***

Practical Application for Peter and the rest of us...

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- **2. Caring for the Flock**
- **1 Peter 5:1-3:** As an elder himself, Peter tells the elders to *“1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”* NASB
- **Shepherding involves a heart of love and care for the spiritual well-being of the church.**

Practical Application for Peter and the rest of us...

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- 3. Exemplifying Humility and Servant Leadership
- **1 Peter 5:3** *“nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”* NASB
- To "tend" and "shepherd" is not about exercising control or power, but about leading with humility and serving others.

Practical Application for Peter and the rest of us...

Loving Jesus By Tending His Sheep

- **3. Exemplifying Humility and Servant Leadership**
- **1 Peter 5:5-6** Peter teaches humility in leadership: *“5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time” NASB*
- **Mark 10:42-45:** Jesus Himself modeled servant leadership, saying, *“but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” NASB*
- **Peter would be called to embody this servant leadership in his shepherding role.**

Practical Application for Peter and the rest of us...

Loving Jesus By Tending His Sheep

- **4. Encouraging and Strengthening the Believers in Trials**
- **1 Peter 4:12-13:** Peter encourages the church in their suffering, saying, *“12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”* NASB
- **Part of shepherding is offering encouragement and strength to those going through trials and persecution, as early Christians were often facing significant opposition.**

Practical Application for Peter and the rest of us...

Loving Jesus By Tending His Sheep

- **4. Encouraging and Strengthening the Believers in Trials**
- **Luke 22:31-32:** Remember when Jesus tells Peter, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."
- ***This was part of Peter's call to strengthen others, especially in times of spiritual struggle.***

Practical Application for Peter and the rest of us...

Loving Jesus By Tending His Sheep

- 5. Praying for and Interceding on Behalf of the Believers
- Shepherds are called to pray for the flock, interceding on their behalf for their spiritual growth and protection from temptation.
- **Acts 6:4:** The apostles, recognizing their role in prayer and the ministry of the Word, say, "*But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.*" NASB
- Part of shepherding is praying for the church.
- **1 Peter 5:7:** "casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." NASB
- **Understanding the need to pray - Peter encourages the believers to trust God in their struggles, showing that prayer is integral in shepherding.**

Practical Application for Peter and the rest of us...

Loving Jesus By Tending His Sheep

- 6. Teaching Sound Doctrine and Correcting False Teaching
- **Acts 20:29-31a:** Paul warned: *“I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert...”* NASB

Practical Application for Peter and the rest of us...

Loving Jesus By Tending His Sheep

- 6. Teaching Sound Doctrine and Correcting False Teaching
- **2 Peter 2:1-3:** “1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.” NASB
- ***Peter warns against false teachers who will bring destructive heresies, urging believers to stay vigilant and faithful to the truth.***

Practical Application for Peter and the rest of us...

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- **7. Restoring Those Who Have Fallen Away**
- Shepherding includes restoring those who have wandered away from the faith and guiding them back to the truth.
- **Galatians 6:1:** "Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ." NASB
- **James 5:19-20:** "19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." NASB

Practical Application for Peter and the rest of us...

Loving Jesus By Tending His Sheep

- 7. Restoring Those Who Have Fallen Away
- *The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7)
- *"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?" (Luke 15:4)*
- **Remember back to Ezekiel's prophecy**, God promises to "search for my sheep" (**Ezekiel 34:11**), is a clear indication that the shepherd must actively pursue lost sheep, just as God seeks out His people.

Loving Jesus - Shepherding Well

Loving Jesus By Tending His Sheep

- Peter's fulfillment of the command to "tend my lambs, shepherd my sheep" involved spiritually **feeding**, **guiding**, and **protecting** the church.
- This included preaching the gospel, teaching sound doctrine, caring for the flock, encouraging believers, praying for them, and restoring those who strayed.
- His leadership would be characterized by servant-hearted humility, strength in times of trial, and a deep commitment to the spiritual health of the community of believers.

Do You Love Jesus?

How Can You Show It?

- **John 14:15** “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”
- **John 15:14** “You are My friends if you do what I command you.”
- **John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”
- **Mark 16:15-16** “And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”
- **Acts 22:16** “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.””

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MEETING TIMES:

Sunday A.M. Bible Study: 9:00

Sunday A.M. Assembly: 10:00

Sunday P.M. Assembly: 4:00

Wed. P.M. Bible Study: 7:00