**PETER’S TRIPLE-DOUBLE, PART II—QUESTIONED**

John 21:15-19

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**INTRODUCTION**

Triple-double is a term popularized by basketball statisticians. It means a player scored 10 or more points, had 10 or more rebounds, and had 10 or more assists. I am borrowing this term to describe what we see in Peter’s life: a triple denial and a triple questioning/restoration. Hence, we can see a triplet doubled, or a triple-double. During the last supper, Peter had boasted he would follow Jesus even if it meant dying for Him. Then, he proceeded to deny Him three times. All of us Christians know the horrible feeling of defeat and despair from denying our Lord. Peter literally said to those with him, “I am going to withdraw (hide) by being a fisherman” (v. 3). He offers to take up fishing as a way of life again. In our text, Jesus reclaims Peter with three questions—one time for each denial. Let us see what we can learn from this experience.

1. **JESUS’ FIRST QUESTION:** “Do you love (**agape**) me ***more than these***?”
2. Peter is confronted with a **double-edged** question.
3. Do you love me more than these things—boat, nets, fishing?
4. Do you love me more than these—though all deny, I will not?
5. Peter replies, “You know that I love (**phileo**) you.”

*Peter refuses to use the agape word to describe his love for Jesus. Raw memories of denying Jesus will do that to you. You lose all confidence and will not boast again for a long time. He simply says that the Lord knows his heart!*

1. Jesus responds, “Feed my lambs.” **Nourish** little ones with the Word of God.
2. **JESUS’ SECOND QUESTION: “Do you love (agape) *me*?”**
3. Peter is confronted with a change in the **emphasis** in the question.

*Jesus asks him to affirm that he really does love* ***Him****—with no comparison.*

1. Peter replies, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love (**phileo**) you.”

*Peter remains humble before the Lord and replies as the first time.*

1. Jesus responds, “Take care of my sheep.” **Shepherd** all the sheep.
2. **JESUS’ THIRD QUESTION: “Do you love (phileo) me?”**
3. Peter is **hurt** by the third question because of the implication.

*Peter is stung by Jesus using phileo instead of agape! The question Jesus is asking is “do you really love me like a brother?”*

1. Peter replies, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love (**phileo**) you.”

*Peter refuses to make the boastful jump to using the greater word for love!*

1. Jesus responds, “Feed my sheep.” **Nourish** all my sheep!

*We see nothing of the arrogant pride left in Peter. Humbled by dramatic failure, he knows the truth. He will only have value if God reclaims him & fills him with His love and power! Only with God’s help can we accomplish anything. Although you may question my interpretation, I am convinced that I am correct. My conclusions are!*

**CONCLUSION**

 Peter is reclaimed and re-commissioned by Jesus. Jesus tells him he shall suffer at the end of his life but to continue to follow him. Like Peter, it is only as we are reclaimed by the love of God that any of us can be used in God’s kingdom. Peter gives us hope because of what he experienced. If you have denied Jesus, let Him reclaim you today so that you can experience love, joy, and peace again. Do not live in misery, defeat, and despair for a single moment longer! Come to Jesus—**today**! Be useful to God **again**.

*“There’s no one like you, my Lord; no one could take your place. I long for your presence, Lord;*

*To serve you is my reward. There’s no one like you, my Lord, no one could take your place.*

*There’s no one like you, my Lord, no one like you.”*