



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Encounters with the Risen Jesus: A Questions for the Road**

**Speaker: Helen Kim Nowalk, Pastor of Community Life Team**

**Scripture: John 21:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

<sup>20</sup> Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) (NIV)

### **Sermon Outline:**

It is easy to say we love until life proves otherwise, for it is the experiences of our life that shows us our limits to love.

In today's scripture we find Jesus speaking with Peter and asking him a question. Jesus creates a space where He and Peter are able to spend time together. Jesus asks Peter the question: “Do you love me?”

Do you love me is not “a” question but “the” question and although it seems like a simple question, it is one that is at the heart of all our relationships.

God is about love and God is after our hearts.

If you love me, keep my commands.

John 14:15

My command is this: love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:12

Just as Jesus asks Peter this question in our scripture, God is also asking us “Do you love me?” Questions from God are a gift that help us to see where we are in our lives.

The world that we live in emphasized what we do and how much we get done, but our God is not interested in activity that is segmented from our heart. Our doing and our being should be one. Jesus purposely asks Peter “Do you love me?” three times. He does this in order to meet Peter where he is at. The fact is that Peter has failed Jesus and Jesus is working to meet Peter in his failure so that he is able to bring Peter forward from his failure. How beautiful is it that Jesus is looking to close the gap from our doing to our being?

How are we able to know that we love God?

- Simplicity in our ‘yes’ which is a good sign of growth and love
- Humility as we entrust ourselves to the love of Jesus
- Answering the charge we receive from Jesus.

Our offend ability shows our level of maturity. The more easily we are offended, the less loving we are. Love is not an easy thing, but love is what is meant to inform our doing.

Jesus is calling the church and asking us “Do you love me?” We are called to not only love from our seats but also to love out on the streets. This type of love is not convenient but costly, and the world is waiting for this type of love. Jesus calls us into this costly love for one another.

We are all seen and loved by God. Our God is a very personal God and his question “Do you love me?” is very personal question for all of us.

### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, Helen Kim Nowalk, Pastor of Community Life Team, continues our new series for Eastertide titled “Encounters with the Risen Jesus”. Today Pastor Helen will explore A Question for the Road and what matters to the heart of God in the conversation Jesus has with Peter.

### **Sermon Questions:**

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, was the love that you received from your family and friends the type of love where you felt seen? Or was the type of love you received one where you did not feel seen? How did your experience growing up inform the way you are able to help others be seen and loved? Journal your answers to these questions, offering them up to God.
3. One way to know that we are growing in the love of God is to just say “yes” to Jesus? Take time to honestly search your heart and see what answer you come up with. Offer your answer up to God asking for his wisdom, guidance, and repentance if you need it, as you process your response to this question.
4. Another way to know that you love God is to be growing in humility. Are you growing in humility as you follow Jesus today? Jesus wants to meet you where you are, **not** where you want to be. Find time this week to sit with Jesus and share the longings of your heart with him. Do you need to ask for his forgiveness or seek His wisdom?
5. What does following Jesus look like to you? Loving God the way we are called to love God is costly. For all who follow Jesus, we are all called into this type of costly love. Who is Jesus calling you to now? Where can you use the gifts and talents that God has blessed you with to show the love of God to others around you? Share your answers with your small group.