LOVEST ME MORE THAN THESE?

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

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Topic:

LOVEST ME MORE THAN THESE?

Bible Text: John 21:1-15

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Prayer

Father thank You very much for Today, Lord I pray that You will teach us Your Word and bless everyone of us in Jesus Christ Name. Amen!

Introduction

I welcome all of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Today's study is a long and sensitive one which I would like us to follow carefully. The Lord wants to deal with us in another way, and I know that by His grace you will not leave here today empty handed in Jesus Christ name.

Our topic today comes in the form of a question. The truth is that many are not sure if they love the Lord Jesus Christ or not.

But as for you, **DO YOU LOVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST?**

Study

After the Lord Jesus Christ had resurrected and went back to Heaven and some of the disciples were together. It happened that Simon Peter said to six other disciples saying that he was going fishing and they all said to him that they will also follow him, so the seven went back fishing. These disciples were those who attended Christ's school of discipleship for 3 and 1/2 years, seriously taught and groomed by the Lord Himself, after several seminars, lectures, practicals, projects, and industrial training (I.T.) that they passed through, they still decided to go back fishing. They were fortunate to hear and receive training from God Himself one-on-one and the most painful part of it is that Peter, who was the captain of disciples, was the one that said that he was going fishing. Peter was a pillar among Jesus' disciples but one would not but wonder why he suddenly made such a decision of going back into fishing. It must have been that he was alone doing nothing (idle) when Satan came to minister to him. It is a pure truth that Satan attacks and tries to derail the leaders of any Christian ministry that was founded by God because he knows such ministry is a threat to his kingdom and once he succeeds over the leader then the ministry crumbles if

care is not taken. The mission of such a leader/ministry gets aborted, the vision gets thwarted, and the glory of such ministry gets darkened, it goes down into the depth of the sea and then every divine purpose of such ministry scatters.

This is why it is very important to pray for leaders but it's painful to see that many do not even pray for their spiritual leaders all they keep asking is if they are being prayed for.

Spiritual leaders are facing a lot which they may not be able to tell you, only few share a very little out of what they face with you because they do not want your faith to get weak. It got to a point, Paul the Apostle said "pray for us"

1 Thessalonians 5:25 KJV Brethren, pray for us.

He believed so much in the prayers of the brethren, he knew how powerful it is, and that the effectual fervent prayers of the righteous man availeth much, so he said "pray for us" this is because leaders are always being targeted by the kingdom of darkness, and many of the things they face is not because of them personally but because of those they are laboring on so they can make Heaven and since the major ministry of Satan is to see that souls end up in hell fire so he fights these leaders with the last drops of his blood. Satan saw that if he kept quiet doing nothing about Peter who was the leader of the disciples then his kingdom would be in serious trouble. So he sought to derail Peter,

John 21:3 KJV Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

Therefore, immediately he was able to inspire him, Peter took the wrong step, and six of the disciples joined him immediately, it would have been a serious and tedious work for Satan to go to these other disciples one by one to convince them to depart from the work God gave them, so he used one stone to kill seven birds. He captured the leader and 1/2 of the disciples to himself through the leader. In most cases churches closed down because of the attacks on the leadership of the church. Peter totally forgot the words of the Lord which He commanded before His departure, these commands were simply direct and clear.

Mark 16:15 KJV **And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature**.

"Go Ye" and preach, but here we have a man who should preach, going fishing, he was sent to save the souls of men but he chose to fish. When the Lord called Peter, that was the same thing he found him doing. He loves fishing so much that he had become an expert and was a professional who knew the right time to catch fish, which is at night. It must have been that nobody forced him to take up the profession because he naturally loved it, and it's clear that he has been doing it for a long time and finds it interesting. But when the Lord called him.

Matthew 4:19 KJV **And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men**.

He had to forsake his passion, or better still channel it towards the gospel just as it is important that everyone who is called by God must forsake all, including their passions, ambition which they loved so much, and follow Christ.

Matthew 4:20 KJV **And they straightway left their nets, and followed him**.

I can remember the kind of great passion I had for military jobs before I answered the call of God upon me. I struggled to gain admission into military school, and was so determined that nothing would stop me, and I would do so by all means. It was a passion I had since primary school, even till many years after I finished secondary school. Despite the fact that the Lord said I should choose where to serve, either in the military or ministry, I discarded the message all because of my passion for the military. But it later got to a point that I knew that I just had to let the military go but not until I got more closer to the Lord. I gained admission into the university after five years and some months of waiting. I knew that it was because I did not draw close to the Lord, and was as a result of my stubbornness to obey God. It was difficult to forsake my long term passion and ambition. But today I return all glory to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. In most cases, forsaking these things are not always easy but as time goes on one would totally hold on to Christ. This was the case with Peter that left fishing for some years but now Satan came to revive the passion in him and he was derailed because it is easier to ignite a fire of an already dead passion in one than lighting a new fire.

They all went out to fish and they caught nothing that night. There were no results for all their toils, they toiled all night and it was only a waste of time. The moment we choose to pursue our own passion putting God's direction and instruction aside, in the end having a profitable and fruitless labor will become evident. Why many suffer is because they are doing what God did not send them, those whom God is calling and are not answering the calls but chose to do what they want and feel is right might begin to experience problems and can continue to labor and labor without results.

John 21:4-6 KJV **But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. [5] Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. [6] And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes**.

The Lord Jesus Christ then showed up, having given the instruction to them to throw the net to the right hand side of the boat they caught plenty of fishes. This shows the fact that the Lord is the one that makes the works of our hands prosper. He taught His disciples this Bible Truth through love, though they left His instruction, though they were at the wrong place at the wrong time He came to bring them back on track through love by performing another miracle similar to the one He performed when He called Peter. By this He made it known to them that in all they do He is the One who helps a man to make wealth. They can actually do nothing without Him, if He does not build the house they labor in vain.

Psalm 127:1 KJV **Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain**.

If He sends a man to do His work and He refuses but chooses to do another He has the power to make his labor fruitless, futile and unyielding. But He decided to perform this miracle so as to open their understanding and to show the extent of His love for them.

At this juncture, John the beloved's understanding got opened and he recognised that it was the Lord.

John 21:7 KJV **Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord...**

He exclaimed **It is the Lord** at that point he thought that who could have performed such a miracle, then he realized that it is only Jesus Christ. After this the Lord called them to eat breakfast and they sat down.

John 21:15 KJV **So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs**.

The Lord then faced Peter, who was the leader of the disciples and asked him a striking question. "Do you love me more than these?" He did not ask John the beloved that, He did not ask Nathanael, He asked Peter because of what He said before He died and resurrected. **Matthew 16:23 KJV** **But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men**.

Peter on whom the church must be built is now the one showing a sign of unseriousness to the great commission and backsliding. So the Lord had to ask Peter that question thrice and he confessed that he loves Him. Peter fell thrice by denying the Lord thrice when He was about to die but now is being restored by confessing his love for Christ thrice. Just like Peter many of us have failed Christ and He's seeking to restore us back and is asking do you love Me more than these? The Lord asked if Peter loved Him more than the rest of the disciples then told him to feed His lambs. In the same way He's asking you too. Do you love Me more than your family members? Do you love Him more than you love your wife/husband & children? Do you love Him more than you love your parents?

Some time ago I asked a four years old girl if she loves Jesus, she said "yes" and I asked her that between her mother and Jesus who does she love the most, she said her mother and I told her that she has to love Jesus more than her mother, so I explained to her that we must love Jesus than every other person on earth, then I asked her again whom she loves the most between her mother and Jesus Christ, and she replied and said her mother, then I told her again that she has to love Jesus more than her mother so I asked her the same question then she kept quiet after then she said she loves the two of them later after several persuasion she then said she loves Jesus more than her mother but to confirm it, I asked her the question again then she said she loves her mother more than Jesus. Then I gave up

As funny and childish as our discussion might sound, one can learn one or two things from it. She was only working by sight and not by faith. She could have been thinking that her mother is always there for her because she can see her physically and has been the one taking care of her so she saw no reason to love someone she cannot see other than whom she has seen. Many of us too behave like this child, we tend to place our love on things we see rather than God whom we do not see which is why we easily yield to pressures to do things that God hates. When the Lord came down seeing that His disciples had gone back to fish He did not attack the issue from the surface but He decided to attack it from its roots, He looked beyond their actions and look into what propelled their actions that was when He saw that Peter's love for Him had not really eaten deep into His heart.

There are times that if those around us do things we do not expect them to do, we should not just look at the surface to address what they did but rather look beyond it to the root to know why they did so, this would help us to make righteous judgements most times. Therefore the Lord looked at why Peter did what he did and saw that his heart was not yet filled with His love then He asked him if he loves Him. In the same way, The Lord is also asking you if you love Him beyond the fashion of this world, He is asking you if you love Him more than money, fame, position, sleep, properties etc. Do you love Him more than these things? Do you love Him more than pornography? Do you love Him more than worldly songs and love songs? Do you love Him more than your own girlfriend/boyfriend? Do you love Him more than worldly movies? Do you remember the reply Peter gave Him? He said that he loves Him. In the same way you can be saying that you love Him, but see what the Lord said

John 14:15 KJV **If ye love me, keep my commandments**.

You see now? You said you love Him but you do not keep His commandments just like Peter, you love Him with your tongue but not actions because you keep doing the things He said you should not do, in fact there are times you say His commandments are too hard and burdensome, whereas He said they are not.

1 John 5:3 KJV **For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous**.

For you saying that already it shows you don't love Him. Why is it that you said you hate the devil and you love Jesus but you do not obey Jesus but

keep pleasing Satan, while you keep making Jesus Christ to weep over your soul, yet He's asking you do you love Me more than these? You have had several messages that it is wrong to disrespect your husband yet you keep disrespecting him even to the point of abusing him and you claim to love the Lord because you are a worker in your church, I must be frank with you, you need to realize that you don't love the Lord, you just think you do because you did not keep His commandments. Yet he is asking you if you love me more than this bad character and attitude towards your husband. You are commanded by the Lord to love your wife just as He loves the church but you keep giving excuses on why you hate her and want to divorce her, you have even married another wife outside her knowledge, you now have more than one wife which is against the Lord's commandment yet you pastor a church or people keep calling you a man of God, sorry sir you don't love the Lord you love women more than Him yet the Lord is asking you, do you love me more than these? How to live a godly life is clearly written all through the scriptures, several scriptures upheld sexual purity but you continued to fornicate and commit adultery, because Satan gave you reasons to do so, reasons such as "but your parents know about your relationship, even your pastor and everyone knows that you are both in courtship, and that you will still get married to him or her" therefore because of this, you start engaging in premarital sex, you don't love the Lord, if you do you will understand and honor that your body as the Temple of God and you will not treat it anyhow, you want to be living in immorality. Dear brother and sister, the Lord is asking you with this fornication you are into do you love Me?

What about that ungodly dressing and lifestyle which the Lord is seriously against? You know about it because you have been taught but you have allowed Satan to whisper into your ears to win you to his side by listening and obeying his voice which keeps saying "Do you think all these things are true? That any woman that uses jewelries would go to hell, that a woman that wears trousers would go to hell and that God is against makeup and the use of hair attachments, even to the point that He will now say you should not even plait your natural hair, are they saying all these great women of God who do these things are all going to hell? Is your pastor's wife also going to hell? God is not concerned about your appearance but your heart, besides God created all these things and gave man wisdom so that you can use it to beautify yourselves, even God is a beautiful God who does not want His children to look ugly" and many more words are the word Satan keeps saying to your ears and you have gone back to these things you want,

saying it doesn't matter now, the Lord is saying to you love Me more than these? Remember Peter went back to fishing because he has no deep Love for Christ, you also have gone back to your vomit.

Those things you once condemned when the love of Christ was seriously burning in your heart are now the things you openly approve and secretly admire, you and that your tight fitted clothes and short skirts and gowns which the Lord detests so much, what about those hairstyles you copied from footballers? And you refuse to let go because you love them more than Jesus Christ, despite all the preachings you have heard about them that they do not please the Lord and are demonic, but you because you do not have a deep passionate love for the Lord you choose to discard that commandment of His. Think deeply now, do you really love the Lord more than the things of this world?

Your love for high heels is so great that it has overshadowed your love for Christ and you have hardened your heart to the point that you said no one can talk or preach you out of it, it makes it clear that you do not love the Lord, those tight fitted trousers that you put on as a man that keeps showing the sign of your manhood shows how far you are from God, you have been warned, counseled, and advised but you chose not to change, in this, the Lord keeps asking you, do you love Me more than these? You know those things you are doing both in the open and secret in which the Lord detests so much, if you know that you really love Him, you must seek His forgiveness and mercy and then repent from them all, those who offended you and you vowed never to forgive will be forgiven by you, if truly you love the Lord and you know that He wants you to forgive others.

You will obey His voice to start the ministry He has been calling you to for years if truly you love Him. Remember that there is nothing in this world that you can compare with the kingdom of God, disobedience to the commandments of God takes a man to Hell fire, why not obey Him. While pursuing the vanities of this world? **Matthew 16:26 KJV** **For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**

What will you gain if because of the things of this world which do not last long you lose your soul? The Lord showed Peter mercy and called him back. The Lord is also showing that same message to you now to make good use of this opportunity like Peter, and amend your ways, love the Lord.

Joshua 22:5 KJV **But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.**

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