

FAITH: A = ALIGN

Part 2 of a 5-part series on the life of the Apostle Peter from Sunday Praise with Spooner Church of the Nazarene.



Cast Your Nets on the Right Side by Greg Olsen

John 21:15-19 CSB

Jesus's Threefold Restoration of Peter

15 When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said to him, "you know that I love you."

"Feed my lambs," he told him. 16 A second time he asked him,

"Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

"Yes, Lord," he said to him, "you know that I love you."

"Shepherd my sheep," he told him.

17 He asked him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was grieved that he asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."

"Feed my sheep," Jesus said. 18 "Truly I tell you, when you were younger, you would tie your belt and walk wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you and carry you where you don't want to go." 19 He said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. After saying this, he told him, "Follow me."

Christian Standard Bible (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2020), John 21:15-19.

For Thought

"Has anyone ever asked you to do something, and you really didn't want to do it because it was an inconvenience? Perhaps you were tired—and yet you did it anyway? Here's what Peter would learn again and again: Jesus routinely inconveniences his followers. He asks us to give our time, and sometimes to borrow our stuff, in order to accomplish his work. He likes to use our skills, our abilities, whatever is at our disposal that we can offer. But Jesus doesn't always ask for our help in the way he called on Peter. Sometimes his call is in the form of a bulletin announcement at church or a sermon in which an invitation is given or maybe we're reading the Bible or praying, and we feel a nudge from the Spirit. Often it is a person in need who presents the opportunity—we see someone in need and feel Christ tugging on our heart. Our task is to pay attention to what's happening around us and to tune our hearts to hear his call."

Hamilton, Adam. *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple* (pp. 32-33). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

For Study

John 21:15-17 Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him. The first time Jesus said, "Do you love (Greek *agape*: "volitional, self-sacrificial love") me more than these?" The second time, Jesus focused on Peter alone and used the same Greek word. The third time, Jesus used the Greek word *phileo* (signifying "affection, affinity, or brotherly love") and asked, in effect, "Are you even my friend?" Peter responded each time with the Greek word *phileo*. Jesus doesn't settle for quick, superficial answers. He has a way of getting to the heart of the matter. Peter had to face his true feelings and motives when Jesus confronted him. How would you respond if Jesus asked you, "Do you love me? Do you really love me? Are you even my friend?"

SOURCE: Chronological Life Application Study Bible Notes, New Living Translation, Tyndale House Publishers

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Megiddo Mosaic

"The god-loving Akeptous has offered the table to God Jesus Christ as a memorial."

The inscription tells us Akeptous donated the table, the focus of the room. She may have been a woman with financial resources and social standing. She is called philotheos, "God lover." The table stood at the center of the room and was likely used in the celebration of the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper.

[SOURCE: museumofthebible.org]



The Archaeology of You & Yours

Archaeology fascinates me. I love reading history and watching YouTube videos about incredible archaeological discoveries. One notable find is a 1,800-year-old mosaic with the oldest known inscription declaring Jesus Christ as God, which was discovered in Israel. The Megiddo Mosaic, dated to 230 A.D., was the flooring for an early Christian prayer hall. This incredible mosaic, with inscriptions and fish symbols, is currently on display at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC.

It's a fascinating mosaic that sparks my curiosity about the individuals memorialized in the inscriptions. One inscription honors the artist Brutius, who "carried out the work" of laying the stones. Akeptous is described as god-loving and is commemorated for providing the table that would have been placed at the center of the mosaic for the worship of "God Jesus Christ."

It makes me pause and reflect on how I would like to be remembered in a mosaic discovered 1,800 years from now. What would I want inscribed about me? I find it difficult to think of a better way to be remembered than "Carried out the work" or "God-loving."

"The Jesus-loving Shannon offered her skills and time to help the people she serves." Hmmm. That is something great to aspire to, but I have a long way to go to earn that inscription! As we gather around Thanksgiving tables with family, friends, and coworkers, it's worthwhile to reflect on how our loved ones bless us and think about a sentence we would like them to be remembered by. Thanksgiving is the perfect time to recognize and thank them for their gifts and how they make our lives better and blessed.

Happy Thanksgiving, my friends!