

then inviting them to come and dine with Him. They knew it was the Lord as they remembered a similar miracle and I think they were probably embarrassed in their fishing operation when there were obviously other issues at stake. (Just an opinion!) He not only prepares the food and serves them...you will recall the sequence in Luke 22 but He speaks to Peter in an exemplary role with the questions of loving. I think He speaks three times to Peter on this line remembering Peter's threefold denial in an earlier moment. The play with the words for "love" and "lambs" may indicate this but what they really show is that love cannot be professed if there is no commitment to action behind it. "If you love me," is the impact, "you will do what I tell you to do." Obedience to God is more important than any possible substitute.

B. We are challenged by attitude and action to love Him.

The point of the challenge will come when He speaks of Peter's eventual service and death. He will challenge Peter to follow him regardless of the cost and when Peter wonders what John will do, the Lord rather politely informs him that is none of His business. His direction for John may differ from that He will direct Peter but the lesson to all of the company is to be a follower of the Lord Jesus without apology or excuse and the adequacy of that following will be demonstrated in the obedience they offer. It is not enough for us to say that we love the Lord, we should be prepared to show it by obedience to His will and thereby following Him.

III. Conclusion: To love and obey are terms that occur in marriage services but they are very appropriate in this regard as well. We have a wonderful life in the Lord and should be thankful every day. We can best show this life by honoring Him in worship, witness and simple obedience. It is an invitation to take the resurrection life and see it in its fullest measure and the better our present lives reflect the resurrection truths, the richer our spiritual journey will be and the greater will be the peace and satisfaction of grace.

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