



“Do you love me?”



Peter was standing by a fire of coals when he denied his Lord three times (chapter 18:18). Now Jesus asks him – again by a fire of coals – whether he loves Him. Peter thought he loved Him more than others. But now Peter answers on each occasion: “You know that I love you.” In other words: I in myself recognise no love, but because you know everything, you can see it deep in my heart.

In this way, Simon Peter (Simon was his old name) is publicly restored. The Lord Jesus gives him an important responsibility: He should be a shepherd who cares for other believers (vv15-17).

Jesus also says that Peter would die as a martyr (vv18-19).

Peter wants to know what is going to happen to John. But the Lord Jesus has to tell him: "You follow me!" – This is also your responsibility (vv20-23)!



104. What should a shepherd do with the lambs (= young believers)?

105. What would be if John had written down every single thing that the Lord Jesus has done (vv24-25)?



Soon after His resurrection, the Lord Jesus had appeared to Simon (Luke 24:34). On that occasion he could confess his sin and experience forgiveness. That was his personal restoration. What had to follow here, was his public restoration before the others.



The Lord Jesus says to you: You follow me!

104. The shepherd should “feed” the lambs (=young believers) (v15) – they need food in order to grow.