

## **DO YOU LOVE JESUS?**

### **John 21:15-22**

Int. After breakfast Jesus broke the embarrassed silence. Probably Peter expected Jesus to lash out at him for failing him so. Instead, Jesus asked a question. Just one question. The only important question. “It is no use dredging up the past and rehashing it. All that counts and all I really want to know is this, Do you love me? Here and now? Really and truly? With all your heart? *Do you love me?*”

### **DO SOMETHING!**

Three times Jesus pressed this question. Three times Peter affirmed he did. And each time Jesus demanded, “Then feed my sheep.” He meant, “If you love me, do something to show it!”

Anyone can do without loving, but no one can love without doing!

Is there a person here who used to be at the hub of the Lord’s work but quit? Discouragement set in. Somebody broke his heart. Some other disciples did him dirty. And, like Peter, he went back fishing.

If so, Jesus has a question. “I do not want to know what upset you, what went wrong or whom you blame. Let’s cut through all of that. Do you love me? If you do, prove it by doing something to show me.”

If you love Jesus, DO SOMETHING for him!

### **NOW!**

Peter’s confession, “You know I love you,” and Jesus’ commission, “Do something to show it” did not end the conversation. Apparently as they walked along the shore Jesus continued. “Peter, now you are free to dress and do as you will. But the day is coming when others will dress you, stretch out your hands and nail them to a cross where you will die.” In short, if Peter INTENDED to do something to show his love for the Lord, he had to do it NOW!

Time is the great thief of opportunity. People may have great intentions. But if they put off acting on those intentions, opportunity may vanish and never return.

If you love Jesus, do something for him NOW!

### **REGARDLESS!**

At this point Peter saw John coming and asked, “Lord, and what about this man?” It is as if Peter objected, “I see you want me to leave boat and net again and follow you though it means a cross. But what about John? It is not fair to ask more of me than you ask of him. If he will, I will.” Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain until I come, it is of no concern to you! You follow me, regardless.”

Jesus still insists that every person who loves him do something to show it now even if no one else does. If the whole world proves false, that does not excuse you!

If you love Jesus, do something for him now REGARDLESS of whether anyone else does!

Con. The Lord walks these aisles today with the exact same question he raised that long ago day by the blue Galilee. “Do you love me?” In the play, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Mary Magdalene sings plaintively, “I don’t know how to love him!” But YOU do! He told us how to love him. “If you love me, do something to show it, do it now, and do it regardless.”