(1) Do You love Me... more than these

v.15 So when they had eaten Breakfast...
- The seven disciples ate w/ Jesus
- now the focus turns to a specific conversation just w/ Peter
- Seems the other disciples were still present during the dialogue
- if the other disciples are present, it can help us define the "these"
★ AND it could be an opportunity for Peter to be restored in view of the other disciples

v.15 Jesus said to Simon Peter
- again, no mention of them leaving the breakfast or moving

v.15 Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?
- What OR who are the these have confused scholars for years.
- this question can be interpreted in one of three ways:

1) Do you love Me more than you love "these" disciples?
- But there never has been a verse stating Peter loves others more than he loves Jesus

2) Do you love Me more than you love these fish/the catch?
it was a large catch and Peter could go back to making a living of fishing as an occupation
"these" would symbolize his old way of life
- the "these" could be the fish, the boat, the gear, the net, etc
★ But again, all seven went fishing, why focus just on Peter for fishing

3) Do you love Me more than these disciples love Me?
- this seems to make the most sense
- especially if the disciples are still present (and there is no indication they wouldn't be)

★ But do we have a verse to link Peter to such a thought... yes

"Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." Matt. 26:33
- Even the night of Jesus' betrayal, Peter said "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake." John 13:37
- Jesus replied that Peter would deny even knowing Him 3x before morning
- All things considered, it seems Jesus is challenging Peter publicly if he still thinks his love is greater for Jesus than others
- Before moving forward in ministry Peter needs repentance μετάνοια
  - a change of mind
  - which seems to be what is happening here

★ But Peter also needed to be encouraged and reinstated for the commission... (v.15-17)

(2) Love ἀγαπάω

v.15 Peter said to Jesus, "Yes Lord, You know that I Love You."
- Peter seems to realize he can't say he love Jesus more than others
- So he says, Yes Lord, You know I Love You"

★ Now, in the Greek we find Jesus using ἀγαπάω for "love" and Peter always using φίλεω for his love to Jesus

ἀγαπάω/ἀγαπε: involves a deep level of affection; intimacy
- NOT a "godly" love as we see this word used to love darkness & the world

"Men loved (ἀγαπάω) darkness rather than light" John 3:19

"Demas has forsaken Me, having loved (ἀγαπάω) this present world..." 2 Tim. 4:10

φίλεω: to love. Describes a range of affection from general emotion to deep love
- can be used as love for relatives AND
- can be used in a deep sense

"The Father loves (φίλεω) the Son and has given all things into His hand" John 3:35

"For the Father loves (φίλεω) the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself does..." John 5:20

★ So, should the reader make a significance of the distinction?

Love φίλεω... is there a Difference?

- Readers should probably NOT focus on the change of words...

1) John uses these words interchangeably
John 3:35; 5:20 and 11:5 w/ 11:36
- Jesus loved (ἀγαπάω) Martha, her sister and Lazarus — 11:5
- Then the Jews said, "See how He loved (φίλεω) him/Lazarus" 11:36

2) The LXX also uses these two words interchangeably
★ Even in the same sentence
"Now Israel loved (ἠγάπα) Joseph... and when the brothers saw their father loved (φίλεω) Joseph... Gen. 37:3-4

3) John uses two other pairs of words interchangeably in this passage
1) FEED and TEND
2) Lamb and sheep
3) Know and Know
οἶδα γινώσκω

★ So, what should be the focus of the reader in this section?
- Probably the re-commission
- the commission of Peter to:

FEED and Tend My sheep

(3) The Reinstatement: Feed & Tend the Sheep

v.15 Jesus said to Peter, "Feed My lambs."

βόσκω: cause to eat, herd, tend
- the emphasis is on Pastoral care over God's people

★ To be given someone's kids is a Great honor & responsibility...
- Even more so when they belong to God

ἀρνίον: lamb or sheep of any age

v.16 Jesus said to him a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes Lord, You know that I Love You"
- Jesus is going to do this 3 times to re-do the 3 betrayals...
- NOT To doubt Peter's love or to embarrass him...
- But to encourage & reinstate him

v.16 Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep."

ποιμαίνω: to shepherd, oversee, lead, guide, tend
- related to ποίμην: a shepherd
- in fact, the word ποίμην can be translated as shepherd or Pastor!
- Pastor, overseer, leader, Bishop = ποίμην

"The Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood." Acts 20:28

v.17 Jesus said to Peter a third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?"
- Peter doesn't yet see this as a re-do of the night of betrayal
- Jesus is being very loving, not demeaning
- Eventually, Peter understood and even wrote 1 Peter (5:1-4)
  - explaining the importance to "Shepherd the flock of God, serve as overseers, not by compulsion, but willingly, not for gain, but w/ passion not as Lords over those entrusted to you, but an example to the flock, so that when the Chief Shepherd appears you will receive a crown of glory that does not fade away."

- It is important to note that some Roman Catholic Scholars will use this passage to establish Peter as the Pope

★ However, this passage does not seem to put Peter in any higher authority
- but rather re-instates him to Christian leadership alongside the apostles
- No evidence of supreme authority or elevation over the other disciples
- Remember that Peter was rebuked sharply by Paul in Gal. 2 (50 AD)

v.17 And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, You know all things. You know that I love You"
- John use two different words for know here οἶδα & γινώσκω
  (Know/understand) (Know intimately)
- 3x Peter was asked & Denied the night of the Betrayal
- Now, 3x Peter was asked and affirmed his love for Jesus
- 3x Peter was re-commissioned by Jesus

★ Notice that LOVE for Jesus is the basic qualification of Christian service

A PASTOR MUST HAVE
- A love for Jesus
- A love for others
- A shepherding ♡
- A firm knowledge of the word of God
- An ability to teach
- An anointing/specific Gift to the church
  - counseling, Evangelism, worship, etc
- Reliable and faithful
- A Demonstration of these things over time to a local church

You add all these together...
AND YOU GET...
JOE
Congratulations!