

" Feed my Lambs "

John 21:15

" When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "yes, lord; you know that i love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

Now Peter was a fisherman, And after the last draught of fishes, the lord had said to him, "Follow me, and i will make you fishers of men. "(Matthew 4:19).

- Peter's work on earth was the symbol of his heavenly calling.
- After the resurrection when Jesus appeared on the shore, He no longer called Peter a fisherman, but a shepherd. There is a deep meaning in the change.
- There is one great point of difference between the fisherman, and the shepherd.
- The fisherman catches what he has neither reared nor fed.
- He seeks only what is full grown, casting away all the little fish out of his net back into the sea (as I have experienced for the first time, out on the water with Ps Russell.)

- The shepherd on the other hand, directs his special attention to the young and the weak.
- All the shepherds profit depends on how he cares for the lambs.
- The example of the fisherman provided no way for the Lord to give special instructions concerning the children of his church.
- The shepherds calling though - at once suggested the words, "Feed my lambs," and shows the deep importance and blessed reward of giving first place to the little ones of the flock.
- Peter, and all of Christ's ministers, were not only to feed the sheep, but the richness of the church would especially depend upon their feeding the little lambs. Amen.

- Now what was said to them, applies especially to us parents - as under shepherds who each have their little flock of lambs to keep and raise for the Master, Halleluiah! (How many under-shepherds do we have here this morning? halleluiah!)
- Christ's commission to His church through Peter, shows the place the little ones have in his heart. It teaches us to think of the weakness, the value, the need, and the hope of our children.

- * " Feed my lambs," Jesus says, and reminds us of the frailty of our children and their spiritual life.
- The lord Jesus was just about to ascend to heaven when he gave one of his last words; "Care for the lambs" he said.
- As you might know, the sheep is a weak and helpless animal - how much more helpless and weak is the little lamb?
- It cannot care for itself. The lord wants every minister and every parent to think how dependent the child is on the care of those whom he is entrusted. The child cannot choose the company under whose influence he comes.
- He or she doesn't yet know to choose between good and evil.

- The child knows nothing of the importance of little words or deeds, of forming habits, of sowing good or bad seeds, or of yielding himself to the world, or to God Almighty.
- It all depends upon his surroundings. Parents especially have the children in their power. What a solemn responsibility to lead and nourish them carefully, to feed them with food which our heavenly father has provided, and to lead them only in the green pastures... Amen!

* Feed my lambs!

- When we hear these words, they remind us of the high value of the little ones. In the lambs, the shepherd sees the possibilities of the future: The lambs are the coming flock: The church of the next generation, the servants whom Jesus will use to do his work of converting, and saving, and blessing people are the children of today. Amen! How little some have understood or heeded the voice - feed the lambs.
Jesus also says, "feed my lambs, for of such is the kingdom." Halleluia!
- Jesus loves children, not only for what they are to become, but for what they already are in their child like simplicity and heavenliness.
- He considers them of great worth for the lessons they continually have to teach grown up people, and the influence they exert in making their parents and elders gentle, humble, and fruitful. Amen!
- They bring many blessings to those who receive them in the name of Jesus. They are to the lord, of unspeakable worth - the most beautiful part of his flock.
- Let's try to catch his spirit as he cries, "feed my lambs". Oh let us learn to look upon our children in the light in which Jesus looks upon them!
- lets pray for the Holy Spirit to make the familiar words, Jesus' lambs, a deep spiritual reality to us, until our hearts tremble at the thought halleluia!
- Our little ones are his lambs: we are to feed them daily that they may grow up as the sheep of his pasture. Amen.

* Feed my lambs:

- The children's great need is presented to us. Food is the condition of growth.
- Food is something received from without, to be assimilated and taken into our very life. The body has its food from the visible world. The mind is nourished and fed by the thoughts that enter it.
- The spirit feeds, through the mind, on the thoughts, the words of God.
- The little ones cannot seek pastures for themselves. Christ looks to us parents to bring to them divine wisdom and love, without which the soul cannot possibly grow.
- In the same way that a mother plans daily what her child is to eat, she must also spiritually feed each lamb entrusted to her care.
- Her one desire and aim must be to raise the child for the lord. The consecration of the child to the lord must be the chief thing in his life.
- The idea that the child is the lord's and he's growing up entirely and alone for him will make the job easy. Amen.

* Feed my lambs:

- These words tell the provision Christ has made for his little ones.

- To who was the question asked? "Do you love me?"
- And who had answered, "Yes, lord, you know that I love you."
- It is only one who is inspired by love for Jesus, who can truly take charge of the lambs-
- This is the test to see and determine whether the parent is qualified to be a shepherd of the lambs.

"Do you love me?"

- This is the provision Jesus has made for the lambs; true love to Jesus can do the work:
- Let every one of us parents who long to know the qualifications needed for his work, submit our names for this test.
- Let Jesus search our hearts- once, twice, a third time-
- Until the thought of our past unfaithfulness brings tears;
- And the answer comes, " Lord, you know all things, you know that i love you."
- And it's this that's the problem in so many a Christian home - the conscious, fervent, and confessed love of Jesus is lacking!
- Nothing influences a child like love: the warmth of a holy love for Jesus will make itself felt. (Kissing all the children...)
- There may be a great deal of religion, teaching, and praying; but only...only love will conquer! Amen.
- Love for Jesus will lead the parent to obey him very carefully, to walk with him very closely, and to trust him wholeheartedly.
- Love for Jesus will make the desire to please him very strong and the duty he gives us very precious.
- Love for Jesus, will make our testimony of him very personal.
- The food which we feed the lambs will have the warmth of a divine love about it (Weetbix).
- Jesus needs parents who love him, who love him with their whole heart and strength...Amen!
- This is the provision he has made for his little lambs, Halleluiah!

* The religion of Jesus is the religion of love. Of the Father it is said in 1 John 4:8, "God is love".

- Jesus himself is the gift of love that surpasses knowledge.
- His own life and work is one of love - love stronger than death...Amen!
- And when the Holy Spirit comes to us, he sheds abroad in our hearts the love of God.
- Our whole relationship to the divine Father is to be one-of-LOVE...Amen!!!
- Our relationship as parents and children was meant to be one of love. It was to restore this that our Lord Jesus came.
- He does it by calling us as parents to love him, and to receive the little ones in his name, Amen!
- He purifies and elevates the love of earth by the love of heaven!

- Friends, the home is consecrated by the light of Jesus' love, resting on the children, and the power of his love dwells in you and i as parents, and the raising of children being made a work of love for him! Halleluiah!

- As Christian parents, see and accept your blessed calling.
- We are the shepherds of the divine love to tend and feed the lambs.

- In his church, the chief Shepherd has many shepherds to care for the flock..., but none who can care for the lambs as parents do... Amen!
- Psalm 107:41 says, "...he makes their families like flocks."

- It is to parental love, inspired and sanctified by redeeming love, that the Lord Jesus looks for the building of his church. Halleluiah!
- So let's continue to pray earnestly to have our eyes opened, and to see things as our Lord sees them.
- May we realise by the Holy Spirit what he feels for our little ones.
- And may we know what he expects of us, and is ready to do for us in giving us wisdom and strength.

* Feed my lambs!

- When this word is made the law of a parent's duty...what gentleness and love it will inspire!
- The result will be...
- heavenly hope, faithful, watchful care, and an unceasing life of faith, in the love, and blessing of Jesus Christ upon our homes...halleluiah.
- So friends...let us often wait for the voice to say to us, "Do you love me? And we answer, " Yes Lord, you know i love you!" then he'd say. "Feed my lambs."
- Amen.

- A Parents Prayer;

- Blessed Saviour,
You are the good Shepherd of whom my soul has said, " The Lord is my Shepherd, i shall not want." Thank you for the holy privilege of being a parent and fulfilling your commission: "Feed my lambs." My Lord, may my daily experience of your shepherd love teach me how to feed my little flocks of lambs. Blessed Master, i ask you to open my eyes to look upon my children as you do, to regard them in the light of your claim upon them. To this end, my Lord, fill me with your love. I confess with shame that there has been in my life so little of an enthusiastic love for you, forgive me and deliver me Lord. Let obedient love for you be the atmosphere of the home in which my children grow up. O Lamb of God, who allows my children to be God's lambs, let your holy love in my heart inspire my relationship with you and with them. Let me prove how wonderfully you are my shepherd, and how blessedly i am their shepherd, in your name Jesus i pray. Amen.