

# How to Show You Believe

## A Commitment to God That Goes Beyond Words

1. Take a moment to look at verses 4-13. Which attributes of deity did Jesus display here?
2. Why might “the disciple whom Jesus loved” have been the first disciple to recognize Him in the verses listed above? How can we become more sensitive to God’s presence?
3. These verses also demonstrate Jesus’ great love and care for His own. What does this truth do to you?
4. Spend a few moments discussing the difference between “agapé” love and “phileo” love. Honestly examine your own heart and make a fresh commitment to love God with a total life commitment, with *agapé* love. According to John 14:15 and 23, what determines true love for God, if not our feelings?
5. In verses 15-17, Peter was reluctant to commit himself wholeheartedly to Jesus Christ (he “phileo”-ed Jesus, but he didn’t “agapé” Him). Why? After this encounter with Jesus, what had to happen so the books of 1st and 2nd Peter could be written? What has to happen in our life before God can use us as fully as He wants to use us?
6. [personal] If obeying God is our criteria for really loving Him, which of His commands do you regularly neglect and so admit your love can be “phileo” but not “agapé”?
7. Why do you think we can believe the apostle John’s testimony (v. 24 and 17:12)? Do unbelievers see your love for God and others, and think, “His/her testimony is true”?

<sup>1</sup>After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: <sup>2</sup>Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.”

They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup>But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?”

They answered Him, “No.”

<sup>6</sup>And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. <sup>9</sup>Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup>Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, “Come and eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

<sup>14</sup>This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup>So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

<sup>16</sup>He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

<sup>17</sup>He said to him the 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?”

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. <sup>18</sup>Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” <sup>19</sup>This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”

<sup>20</sup>Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” <sup>21</sup>Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?”

<sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.”

<sup>23</sup>Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?”

<sup>24</sup>This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

<sup>25</sup>And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

Guest Speaker Jeff Newman

# Read: Acts 1

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**Monday**

1-26 — Monday: 1-3—What do you remember from your past study of the Scriptures concerning Christ's appearances following His resurrection? (Consider reviewing Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20-21.) What proofs did Jesus provide of His resurrection? How do these demonstrations of the reality of His resurrection encourage and challenge you to live for Him?

**Tuesday**

4,5 — Christ instructed His disciples to wait for Him to begin His Church (through the coming of His Spirit, Who would baptize them into His Body, the Church). Think of a time in your life when God has caused you to wait on Him for His work to take place. What was it like to experience this time of waiting? Where were you tempted to doubt God? How did God use this time of waiting to help you grow?

**Wednesday**

6-8 — Christ cautioned His disciples about becoming distracted by seeking an answer to a question that was unavailable to them. Have you ever allowed yourself to become distracted from your responsibilities before God by cares and concerns that should have been entrusted to Him? If so, how does God work in your life to return you to a proper focus?

**Thursday**

6-8 — Just as Christ promised the coming of His Spirit, He also promised that He would transform His disciples into witnesses for Him. How has Christ transformed you by His Spirit into a witness for Him? Rejoice in His work. Where have you resisted His plan for you to be a witness?

**Friday**

9-11 — As Christ rose bodily into heaven, two men, messengers of God, proclaimed the promise of His bodily return from heaven. Why do think that this promise was reinforced at this time? Read 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 and 1 John 3:2-3. What should the promise of Christ's return accomplish in our lives?

**Saturday**

12-14 — The disciples obeyed Christ's command to remain together and wait for His gift of the Spirit. What does verse 14 say that they did during this time of waiting? How can this help you during the times in life that you are called on to wait patiently for God's work?

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