

## Jesus DIY

### Week 2:

#### John 21: 15- 19

##### 1. Who are these sheep and lambs? v16, v17,

16. He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17. He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, 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 everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

Jesus used metaphor and symbolism in such a way as to help the disciples, in this case Peter, understand the teachings. The cultural setting is one of a rural subsistence farming society so the utilisation of examples from the agricultural world makes sense. How would Jesus place his examples to us today? Probably utilise cars and computers and phones. So here we see the concept of what is in the flock. The bunch, the mob – the imagery is agricultural and the meaning is what we have come to know as the church.

##### 2. Whose sheep are they? v16 (My sheep etc)

16. He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

Who are the flock, who are the sheep, who are the lambs?

Different theories and theologies explain it in different ways.

Feed my lambs refers to those who are developing in their faith and providing resources for growth for them.

The Greek word for feed here infers a putting them in good pasture.

Tend my sheep refers to looking after for Christians in their specific needs of care.

Again. Looking at the Greek, as I do in preparation sometimes, the word for tend indicates a supervision role. Supervise those people's lives.

Feed my sheep is caring and providing resources for Christians to develop spiritually.

Interestingly, the author goes back to the original care word of putting people in good pasture, or a place to grow, be safe and be.

### 3. How do we respond to our flock?

Careful here. Don't make the assumption that this church is the pastor's flock. If we take this scripture to heart, it is to all of us. We assume this bit of the bible is applicable to all, not just pastors. We are your flock and you are mine.

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Reading through some stuff about this passage. The assumption is that this is not about evangelism. This is about caring for the church. Caring for those of us. It is about setting up ways of developing us. Development and care of each other.

The question Jesus asks is: Do you love me?

The answer is what?

If we love Jesus – we participate in tending and feeding His people. If we say we love Jesus, we care and tend and feed those in His church. How are you caring for the others around you? How are you caring for those who aren't here this morning? Don't worry, I have ask the same questions of myself.

Oh, by the way it isn't about church growth either. It is about individual spiritual development. And by the way, individual spiritual development of others. This is not a selfish thing, nor a personal, development thing, this is us developing each other.

What is our model – Jesus. He spent 3 years walking and teaching and living with people. That is a simple perspective. Are we willing to spend three years of time feeding people, caring for people and developing people.

I know this is a weird question but

If we aren't willing to do that, go back to the question: Do you love me?

Ok

Let's apply this.

1. Who are our sheep? Think about this. Who are the people God wants you to care for and resource.
2. How do we interact with them?
3. How do we model Jesus in our ministry?