

The Demanding Love of Jesus

11:00 AM Worship
Sunday, May 10, 2015

John 21.15-19

Rev. Michael Bentley

Jesus exposes our self-centeredness to show us how unworthy it is.

Peter's first claim to love Jesus 'to the death' was rooted in his own self-centeredness. The resurrected Christ proved to Peter that:

1. Real importance is found in Jesus loving him, [Matt. 16.25] &;
2. Loving Jesus back demands certain things. [James 2.26]

We spend so much effort trying to prove our importance. But, death proves that our own value can't be found in stuff that can't walk out of a grave. Nothing is more important than being *loved by* – and *loving* – Jesus.

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What we love demands our action.

Jesus is 100% convinced that people are only fulfilled when freed from sin to lovingly pursue the holiness of God.

... Therefore...

Because Peter loves the Christ who loves him, Peter's time and imagination and work is spent helping people love Christ in order to pursue the holiness of God.

Something to think about: What would change in our world if what Jesus thought was important became the *passion* of ...

- My government?
- My job?
- My neighborhood?
- My family?
- My heart?

When our desires are captured by the worthiness of the holy Savior, financial suffering, physical pain and even death cannot be compared to the joy of his Kingdom. [Romans 8.18]

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Weekly Meditation

Lord Jesus, may your love for me become my love for you.

Questions or comments? Please contact Pastor Bentley.

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