NOVEMBER 18, 2026

SERMON NOTES

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DO YOU LOVE HIM?

John 20:30-31: *There are also many other signs (attesting miracles) that Jesus performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe [with a deep, abiding trust] that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed), the Son of God; and that by believing [and trusting in and relying on Him] you may have life in His name.*

1. **The Table – The Last Supper/Passover**
   - **Matthew 26:21, 31–35**
   - Jesus foretold that His disciples would be scattered because of Him.
   - Peter boastfully declared that he would never deny Jesus.
   - Peter's confidence in himself proved greater than his ability to remain faithful.
2. **The Fire – A Place of Failure and Restoration**
   - **Mark 14:54, 66-68, 71** - Peter denied knowing Jesus while warming himself near a charcoal fire in a courtyard of a high priest.
   - **John 21:9** - After His resurrection, Jesus met His disciples beside another charcoal fire on a beach. This is foreshadowing their roles as fishers of men with Christ's authority behind them.
3. **Word Play – A Deeper Meaning of Love**
   - **John 21:15–17** - Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Peter uses a different Greek word for love (*phileo*) than Jesus does (*agapao*) in His first two questions to Peter. The third time Jesus uses the same word for love that Peter previously used twice (*phileo*).
     - Agape (*greek*): Unconditional, selfless, and sacrificial love. It extends to all people, strangers, or the love of God.
     - Philia (*greek*): Deep, affectionate friendship and loyalty. It is shared between close friends, family members, or comrades based on deep emotional trust.
   - Jesus graciously accepts Peter's declaration, restores him to fellowship, and commissions him to service - fishing - evangelising, to the young and old.
   - **John 2:19-22** (Cleansing the Temple) *But He was speaking of the temple which was His body.*
4. **Humility – A Heart That Recognizes Its Need for God**
   - **John 21:17** - Jesus spoke plainly to Peter the third time, came down to his level - Do you love me more now than when you chose to deny me? Peter was humbled.
   - **James 4:6** - God gives grace to the humble.
   - **Psalm 51:1, 17** - A broken and repentant heart is acceptable to God.
   - **1 John 1:8–9** - *If we say we have no sin [refusing to admit that we are sinners], we delude ourselves and the truth is not in us. [His word does not live in our hearts.] 9 If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us continually from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose].*

5. **Love – The Greatest Commandment**
    - **John 21:17; Exodus 20:6; Deuteronomy 6:5/ 13:1–3; Psalm 18:1; Matthew 22:37; 1 Corinthians 16:22/13:13; Revelation 2:4–5**
    - We are commanded to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength.
    - Our love for God must remain greater than our love for anything else.
    - Love should be expressed through obedience and faithfulness.
    - Faith, hope, and love remain, but the greatest is love.
    - Jesus wants us to level up our love, to let it grow into unconditional, selfless, and sacrificial love for God.
6. **Fruit – Evidence of Genuine Love**
    - **John 21:15–17; Luke 3:8**
    - Jesus told Peter to feed and care for His sheep - evangelize to people.
    - Genuine repentance produces fruit that reflects a changed heart.
    - Our actions should demonstrate the transformation God has made in us.
    - A life that loves Jesus will produce spiritual fruit.
7. **Do You Love Him? – A Personal Examination**
    - **John 21:17; 1 John 4:19**
    - Jesus asked Peter, "*Do you love Me?*"
    - The same question challenges every believer today.
    - We love Him because He first loved us.
    - Our love should be reflected in our obedience, commitment, and care for others.
    - Loving Jesus means putting Him first and living a life that honors Him.

Our love for Jesus should be reflected in:

- Humility – Acknowledging our need for Him.
- Repentance – Turning away from sin.
- Obedience – Following His Word.
- Service – Caring for His people.
- Fruitfulness – Demonstrating a transformed life.