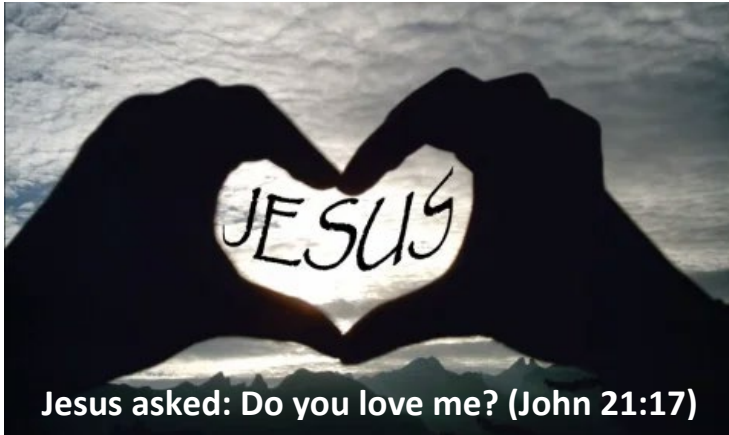




Sunday 9th May 2021



We meet at The Salvation Army Hall Sunday 10.00 am
We will start with prayer – and invite you to join with us by ZOOM

Our worship service will start at 10.15 – and we will join again for ZOOM fellowship after worship at 11.30

Also Sunday worship on is on  YouTube

The easiest way to find the link to the YouTube meeting each Sunday is to find the link on the Corps web page. Type.....

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate and select **Church on YouTube**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8651865167>

Ramsgate ZOOM 8651865167

AND DVDs of the service are available for those who would like them



What's happening next week at Ramsgate Salvation Army?

Sunday 9th 10.00 am Prayer at the Hall (Join by ZOOM)
Sunday 9th 10.15 am **WORSHIP at Salvation Army Hall**
Sunday 9th 11.30 am ZOOM fellowship
Sunday 9th 12 noon ZOOM Youth Group
Sunday 9th 4.30 pm ZOOM Children's Church Kids Club
(up to 11 years)

Monday to Friday (6.30am-9am) Breakfast Drop-in (street homeless only)

Monday 10th



Little Fishes Toddler
Group 9.30am – 11am

Monday 10th 7.30pm

APEST

Tuesday 11th 7pm

Safe and Sound 2 for Leaders Part 2 7pm - 9pm

Wednesday 12th 7pm

Corps Council

Thursday 13th 11am

Carl leading service at Yoakley House

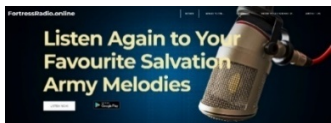
Thursday 13th 7pm

ZOOM ASCENSION DAY Meditation –

Launch of Thy Kingdom Come

Friday 14th (10am - 12 noon)

Food Bank



There is a full day of activities
on Fortress Radio.

<https://www.fortressradio.online/listen-now.html>

And don't forget Songs of Praise Sunday at 13.15pm



Maggie is available with the constant prayer line where you can call or text for prayer. You can contact her on 07840 753 603

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.



Birthdays

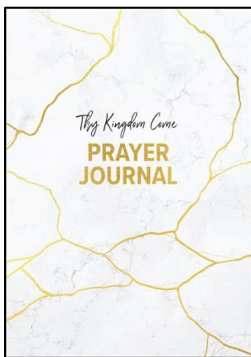
Stacy Matias	10-May
Josette Archer	13-May
Derrick Cannon	15-May

Prayers please for

We continue to support **David Miller** following the unexpected death of his wife Karen. For **Jean Mayton**, **Peter** for **Chris**, a friend of Gay. For **Sam**, step mum to Hollie. For **Tanya**, the niece of Janet. We continue to pray for **Grant** and **Al** and **David** and **John** McCairn all waiting for medical treatment. For Tracy's dad **Ivan** and her family. For **Archie**, Lisa and Scott.

Thy Kingdom Come - 13th - 23rd May

As in previous years, we would love to invite you in joining thousands of Christians across the world as we pray between Ascension and Pentecost. Coming to you through your letterbox is a booklet which is offered as a resource during these 10 days.



Thy Kingdom Come is a gift to refresh our faith, especially if we felt isolated from our community or our Church during this difficult time. Each day there are a few things to read, a prayer to offer and then an invitation for you to make your own reflections on what it means to follow in the way of Christ. You don't have to write anything down, but you may find it helpful. Don't worry if this isn't you! Pray for 5 friends, family, neighbours, colleagues – who live their lives

yet to know the love offered to them in Christ Jesus. In these days of hopeful waiting and praying between Ascension and Pentecost, may we all be renewed by the Spirit; made new in Christ.

AFTER LOCKDOWN (Adapted from Christianity Magazine - Ryan Diaz - 7/5/21)

As lockdown eases, many churches are preparing to open their doors. But after more than a year of Zoom, some Christians wonder if regular Sunday worship is worth the effort



If we can consume the word and worship from the comfort of our home, why do we need to make the trek back to our churches? It's a fair question, and one many church goers are facing for the first time.

For all its downsides, the pandemic gave Christians back their Sundays. And it is certainly hard to give up all the free time we got back. After a year of lockdown, what are the spiritual benefits of emerging from our bubbles?

1. Gathered worship forces us to de-centre ourselves

Our society deludes itself into believing that life is fundamentally about ourselves by putting the consumer in the center of the universe. We approach church like consumers and make the entire experience about what we like and dislike - lockdown has exacerbated this reality. If the sermon is dull or the worship not to our liking, we no longer have to do the hard work of leaving a church. Instead, all we have to do is go to YouTube to find an experience that satisfies us.

This is why we need to regather for worship. Worshipping together in a gathered community forces us to de-centre ourselves. CS Lewis famously wrote:

“When I first became a Christian, about fourteen years ago, I thought that I could do it on my own, by retiring to my rooms and reading theology, and I wouldn't go to the churches and Gospel Halls; ... I disliked very much their hymns, which I considered to be fifth-rate poems set to sixth-rate music. But as I went on I saw the great merit of it. I came up against different people of quite different

outlooks and different education, and then gradually my conceit just began peeling off. I realised that the hymns (which were just sixth-rate music) were, nevertheless, being sung with devotion and benefit by an old saint in elastic-side boots in the opposite pew, and then you realise that you aren't fit to clean those boots. It gets you out of your solitary conceit."

His point is a powerful one. Solitude produces conceit. It reinforces the lie that life is all about our preferences. When we sing along to sixth-rate music alongside people we probably disagree with, we are forced to grapple with the complexities of what it means to live with others at the centre. By gathering, we put aside our preferences and participate despite our desires. We stop being consumers. We learn to appreciate that which we often disregard. Corporate worship trains us to ask what is best for others before considering what is best for us.

2. Gathered worship dismantles the false-self

Christians have always struggled with the false self. We cultivate a false self to meet the demands of Instagram and the self we use to rebuff inquiring church elders. This isn't a new issue, but after spending a year dislocated from our communities, it has become easier to lean into our false selves.

The best thing about the gathering is that we can't escape the questions. While we can quietly log out of a Zoom call, it is a lot harder to sneak out the church's back door. The questions asked by our brothers and sisters are an invitation to renounce the false self we have created and embrace the reality of our own brokenness and need for help. It is time for us to turn off the backgrounds and come from behind our screens. It's time to get into the presence of real people and learn to be honest with them.

3. Gathered worship reminds us of the interconnectedness of human life

Before his death, Jesus prayed that we would be one. This past year forced many of us to go it on our own. We were cut off. But this is not the ideal. We are intertwined, complexity knit together to make a composite whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. Gathering reminds us that no man

is an island. In Christ, we are bound together, and in Christ, we discover that we need each other. This is the power of the Christian witness.

Karl Barth writes, "On the basis of the eternal will of God we have to think of every human being, even the oddest, most villainous or miserable, as one to whom Jesus Christ is Brother and God is Father."

As cities reopen and churches follow suit, I encourage you to get back to the hall. Hopefully, a year disconnected from one another demonstrates how much we needed each other all along. To gather is to be the people of God. We are the ekklesia, the gathering, and we need this gathering now more than ever.

**What comes into
our minds when
we think about
God is the most
important thing
about us.**

A.W. TOZER

From Major John - The Power and Glory of Jesus.

I have been inspired and blest in spirit by reading Revelation chapters four and five in recent times which speak of the worship in Heaven of the Risen and Glorified Jesus, The Lamb of God enthroned above. Reading and praying songs from our songbook which make reference to this also brings great blessing and warms the heart. I invite you to read the scripture above and meditate on some of the verses in the song book which I would love to share with you.

Song 237

All Heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord.
Who can compare with the beauty of the Lord?
For ever he will be the Lamb upon the throne.
I gladly bow the knee and worship him alone.

I will proclaim the glory of the risen Lord,
Who once was slain to reconcile man to God.
Forever he will be the Lamb upon the throne.
I gladly bow the knee and worship him alone.

Song 236

All hail the Lamb, enthroned on high;
His praise shall be our battle cry.
He reigns victorious, forever glorious,
His name is Jesus, he is the Lord.

In Revelation 4 verses 10 and 11 we read of the twentyfour elders in heaven falling down before the throne and laying down their crowns before the throne in worship declaring,

‘You are worthy, our Lord and God to receive glory and honour and power.’

It is said that after hearing a minister preach on the coming again of our Lord, Queen Victoria said ‘I wish He would come during my lifetime so that I could take my crown and lay it at His feet.’

Charles Wesley must have been truly Spirit filled when he penned the words of his magnificent hymn 'Love divine, all loves excelling' 262 SASB. It is wonderful song to meditate on and the final great verse again speaks of laying our crowns at the feet of Jesus.

Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee.
**Changed from glory into glory,
Till in Heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.**

Another great hymnwriter, Isaac Watts paraphrases the scripture Revelation 5. 1-11. and lifts us up to heaven to experience the worship to the Lamb, Jesus. I find it an inspiration to use it in my prayer time as it comes directly from the scriptures. We are invited by him to join in the songs of worship, with angels round the throne,

Song 163...
Come let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne;
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
But all their joys are one.

Worthy the Lamb that died, they cry,
To be exalted thus!
Worthy the Lamb, our hearts reply,
For he was slain for us!

Jesus is worthy to receive
Honour and power divine;
And blessings more than we can give
Be, Lord forever thine.

Hallelujah!

(If you have YouTube or other devices to find music, 'Is He worthy?' by Chris Tomlin is an inspiring contemporary worship song which fits this theme.)

Time to smile

Christian Crackers.

At the end of his sermon the minister told his congregation that Jesus had called him to another church. The congregation then sang lustily 'What a friend we have in Jesus!'

Seen in a West Country Church...

Whenever I see a little church
I always pay a visit.
So when at last I'm carried in
The Lord won't say: 'Who is it?'

Our lady doctor took her small niece to church. When they returned her mother asked the little girl what had happened.

'Well, the minster prayed and I prayed. The minister sang and I sang. The minister speaked and Auntie brought me home'.

Rib Ticklers

Why is six scared of seven? Because 7-8-9.

What was more useful than the invention of the first telephone? The second telephone.

Why was Thomas Edison able to invent the light bulb?
Because he was very bright.

How do you start a fire with two sticks?
Make sure one of them is a match.

Quiz

1. Where in suburbia was the sitcom 'The Good Life' set?
2. Whose first solo album after leaving a famous chart topping group was 'All Things Must Pass'?
3. Which first name is derived from the Greek for rock or stone?
4. How many episodes of 'Fawlty Towers' were made in total?
5. Which element has the atomic number 1?

Andrew Lloyd-Webber

1. Which of his musicals saw Elaine Page shoot to stardom?
2. Which instrument does his brother play?
3. Which Royal once worked for his Really Useful Company?
4. Which future star Michael starred as Alex in 'Aspects of love'?
5. What was the name of the talent show when it was announced it would find the stars of Joseph?

Andrew Lloyd-Webber
1. Evita 2. Cello 3. Prince Edward 4. Michael Ball 5. Any Dream Will Do

Quiz
1. Surbiton 2. George Harrison 3. Peter 4. 12 5. Hydrogen

Answers

Sunday Worship 9th May 2021

A Prayer for our worship this morning – that we might be attentive to Jesus

Jesus in the garden, newly risen from the dead,
who stood by weeping Mary, and who heard the words she said
as if you were the gardener, till at last your shepherd's voice
called her 'Mary' and with one word gave her reason to rejoice,
Jesus in the garden, ever new but still the same,
help me recognise you in the speaking of my name.

Jesus on the journey, fellow traveller on the road,
who met two sad disciples, walking with them as you showed
the meaning of the scriptures that predicted you would rise,
but only when you blessed the meal could they believe their eyes.
Jesus on the journey, meet me where my hopes have fled,
help me recognise you in the breaking of the bread.

Jesus in the locked room, breaking through despair and doubt,
who comforted your friends when they had shut the whole world out,
who came again for Thomas, and revealed your hands and side
so that he could touch and know you as alive, though you had died.
Jesus in the locked room, breaking through our self-built bars,
help me recognise you in the touching of your scars.

Jesus on the shoreline, cooking breakfast for your friends,
who offered guilty Peter one more chance to make amends,
who filled a net with fish for him, and helped him to recall
the first catch that convinced him to respond to your first call.
Jesus on the shoreline, know my best, forgive my worst,
help me recognise you in the way I met you first.

John 21: Do you Love me?

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

16 Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

17 The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.

You did well in last week’s quiz on Sunday and so here is another question

What is the most important question you have ever been asked?

Think for a moment – it’s not easy when you are on the spot – so let me give you a few suggestions.



Some you will dismiss – saying they are trivial, irrelevant, ambiguous.

Others may well hit the nail on the head. That Eureka moment – yes that is what I need to answer.

The most important question in the world

Are you happy?

Are you grateful?

Do you like your job or maybe are you enjoying retirement?

Do you feel good?

Ok, here are some deeper questions

Are you living your values?

How are you improving life for others?

To whom do you need to apologise?

What do you need to accept and embrace about yourself , rather than seeing it as a weakness?

Or finally

Who do you want to be?

If you look at the self-help books you will see hundreds of questions like these.

There is a deep understanding that if we do not question ourselves – we will fail.

Socrates 2500 years ago said – the unexamined life is not worth living.

Here is my suggestion -for the most important question you will ever be asked – and a question I think we need to keep answering – maybe every day.

And it's what we will look at this morning – one of my favourite passages in the bible

Its goes like this

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” John 21:15

The most important question is the whole of creation is Jesus asking me, is Jesus asking you

Do you love me?

Song Number 607

Lord, thou art questioning: Lovest thou me?
Yea, Lord, thou knowest, my answer must be;
But since love's value is proved by love's test,
Jesus, I'll give thee the dearest and best.

All in my heart, Lord, thou canst read;
Master, thou knowest I love thee indeed.
Ask what thou wilt my devotion to test,
I will surrender the dearest and best.

2 How couldst thou smile on me if, in my heart,
I were unwilling from treasures to part?
Since my redemption cost thee such a price,
Utmost surrender alone will suffice.

3 Down at thy feet all my fears I let go,
Back on thy strength all my weakness I throw;
Lord, in my life thou shalt have thine own way,
Speak but the word, and thy child will obey. Ruth Tracy (1870-1960)

The most important question in the whole of creation is Jesus asking me, is Jesus asking you

Do you love me?

If we pause there I wonder if you agree or not?

Can you think of anything more important?

I think we could justifiably end it here. With that simple question we might silently think though this day

Is Jesus number one in my life?

Do I turn to him with worship, and prayer and questions?

Is He the first thing I think about when I wake – the last prayer of the day?

We sing the chorus

Christ is all, yes, all in all;

My Christ is all in all.

Christ is all, yes, all in all;

My Christ is all in all.

And the words are so profound.

Around me in the world I see

No joy that turns my soul from Thee;

Its honours fade and fall;

But with Thee, though I mount the cross,

I count it gain to suffer loss,

For Thou art all in all.

That is loving Christ.

But you know the story well enough to remember that for Peter it did not end with just one question and you will know well that commentators have made the very strong link with Peter's denial and the three questions from Jesus.

Last week Heather and I discussed what we should use for the fire we should have on the beach. Why do you may ask? Well because it is very significant.

During the trial of Jesus this is how John records what happened.

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest,¹⁶ but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in.¹⁷ The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."¹⁸ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and

warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.
John 18:15-18

Nowhere else in the Gospels is any mention made about the type of fire used to keep warm and cook.

Until of course the story of the breakfast at the beach – John reports this

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. John 21:9

This was no mistake, Jesus was setting the scene so that Peter would be sure not to miss the point.

Scholar N. T. Wright said, “ The smell of the charcoal fire lingers. Peter’s night of agony returns.

So are there places or objects that make you feel guilty? A pang of remorse? A twinge of regret?

When ever I see a first world war gas mask I have a horrible flash back



For a long time while I was in my teens – and, I should say, – before I became a Christian - I worked in a fast food restaurant as a griddle chef – a cook. I did some really silly things, played pranks, had a great time – at other people’s expense. And often it was to annoy the manager – who for the most part stayed in his office and never did any work!

The design of the restaurant was such that the customers looked right through into the kitchen – and could see us making their meal. On day we thought it was time to protest about the heat and poor ventilation in the kitchen – so I bought some gas masks from a market stall and my co-conspirator and I put on our masks and proceeded to cook burgers and pies and chips whilst wearing our gas masks. As expected the manager never

saw what we were doing because he was hidden away. But the customers did – and most – to our great surprise – walked out – and probably never ever came back. The protest worked of course - because we could sit outside for the rest of the afternoon as it was very quiet. But I do look back on this – and other similarly silly things and feel very guilty.

So this was the moment for Peter?

And then, after breakfast, Jesus talks with Peter. Three times he asks: Peter, do you love me? Three times. Echoing the three times when Peter warmed his hands on the charcoal fire and watched his Lord from a safe distance and lied about knowing Him. These weren't coincidences, were they?

Jesus is revealing Peter's denial. He's bringing Peter's shame and sin and guilt and remorse to the surface. Not to make him feel small. Not to humiliate him in front of the others. Not to make Peter feel worse about it. But because in order for our sinfulness to be dealt with – in order for our guilt and shame to be removed – it needs bringing out into the light – it needs revealing.

Suppose you go to the doctors with red spots all over your body and he diagnoses measles. Imagine he then tried to cure you by covering all the spots with plasters. You'd say, 'Hang on a minute, that's no solution. The spots are only the symptoms – the real disease is within; it's in the blood stream!'

Jesus wants to deal with the measles. Treat the root cause. And that's why He asks us to be honest about our failings and our sinfulness.

Don't pretend you're better than you are. When you get those pangs of remorse tell the Doctor the symptoms and let Him treat you.

Removing Peter's shame

I don't need to ask you today when you have fallen short or failed to live a Christlike life. The question is not 'have we sinned?' The question is 'what do we do about it?'

When Jesus appears on the shore, it's not to catch Peter out. Jesus knew Peter would be likely to carry the shame and guilt of his denial for the rest of his life, unless He intervened. The point of the cross, after all, was that guilt and sin would no longer hold us captive. And so Jesus travels to Galilee, catches some fish and cooks breakfast, seeks Peter out and in everything – the fishing, the food, he reminds him of everything they'd ever known in their friendship. And in doing that, Jesus once again confirmed His love for Peter, and allowed Peter to express his love in return.

Max Lucado tells a story about running around the supermarket with his brother when he was little. His Mum tells him to stop, but they don't. Max rushes round the corner from one aisle to the next – right into a display. A display of glass jars of honey. The jars smash, honey spills out. Little Max Lucado is sat in the mess. The supermarket manager rushes over, furious. 'Who does this child belong to?' Max's mum appears. 'He belongs to me,' she says. 'And we'll clean this mess up.'

Jesus removes Peter's shame by reminding him that He loves him. Jesus could see the sticky mess that guilt is. That Peter is sitting in. But Peter belongs to Jesus – 'you know that I love you', and so Jesus and Peter will clean the mess up.

Song Number 878

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine,
For thee all the pleasures of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art thou,
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

2 I love thee because thou hast first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow,
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

3 I will love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
And praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath;
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

4 In mansions of Glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee and dwell in thy sight;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

William Ralph Featherstone (1846-1873)

Do you love me?

To fully understand the question we have to realise the limitations of our language –

We only have one word for love

I use the same word if I'm talking about how I feel about chocolate or about Heather.

CS Lewis famously summarised the meaning of love in his book – the four loves - helping us to understand that our one English word has its root in four Greek words which are so different

Storge: Affection Love, Phileo: Friendship Love, Eros: Romantic Love, Agape: Divine Love.

When Jesus asked Peter do you love me – what was he asking?

And this is so important

When he asks you and me the same question – what do we think it means – how do we answer?

Jesus asked Peter three times in a row whether he loved Him or not.

Why would Jesus ask Peter this question three times when He must have already known?

Was it once for every time Peter denied Him? Perhaps it was.

Jesus asked Peter the first time whether he loved Him or not, and Peter naturally said yes because he really did, and Peter said that Jesus knew he did

Jesus used the word “agape” when He used the word “love,” but Peter responded with the “phileo” love, which is more like a brotherly love.

Again, Peter, Do You Love Me?

Jesus asked Peter again if he loved Him (John 21:16), and again Jesus used the highest form of love, using the word “agape,” which is a godly, self-sacrificing love. It is the love that will do anything for a friend – no matter how unpleasant – or inconvenient – or costly. That is the love that drives people to go to any extreme to help another.

Watch this

Peter answered again that he did love Jesus, but it was a “phileo,” or brotherly, love that again Peter spoke about.

Finally, Jesus asked Peter a third time if he loved Him but this time used his human-given name, “Simon, son of Jonah.” But Jesus used the word “phileo” for love, and Peter was very grieved, or, as the Greek word “lypeō” means, he was very sorrowful.

Maybe Jesus was trying to get Peter to feel sorrow for his betrayal of Him before Calvary.

For the last time, Peter used the word “phileo,” the Greek word for brotherly love, and again Peter said, yes, he does love Him.

Peter was grieved over having Jesus ask this three times and told Jesus, “Lord, You know all things,” indicating that of course Jesus knew Peter loved Him.

But just how much

It goes back the beginning of our question

The most important question

Jesus asks - Do you love me?

But now we need to think about the question and the answer

You see if we think Jesus is asking for a comfy friendship – where you both sit in armchairs wearing your favourite slippers – then you don't understand the love he is taking about.

When Jesus asks about agape love it is about sacrifice – it is about obedience, its about doing the things that Jesus wants us to do.

This is a great poem by Adrian Plass – he challenges us to think about following Jesus – the cost of that love. When you hear the word love – you need to hear agape- sacrifice. And hear the question – do you love me?

When I became a Christian I said, Lord, now fill me in,
Tell me what I'll suffer in this world of shame and sin.
He said, Your body may be killed, and left to rot and stink,
Do you still want to love me? I said Amen – I think.
I think Amen, Amen I think, I think I say Amen,
I'm not completely sure, can you just run through that again?
You say my body may be killed and left to rot and stink,
Well, yes, that sounds terrific, Lord, I say Amen – I think.
But, Lord, there must be other ways to love you, I said,
I really would prefer to end up dying in my bed.
Well, yes, he said, you could put up with the sneers and scorn and spit,
Do you still want to love me? I said Amen – a bit.
A bit Amen, Amen a bit, a bit I say Amen,
I'm not entirely sure, can we just run through that again?
You say I could put up with sneers and also scorn and spit,
Well, yes, I've made my mind up, and I say, Amen – a bit.
Well I sat back and thought a while, then tried a different ploy,
Now, Lord, I said, the Good book says that Christians live in joy.
That's true he said, you need the joy to bear the pain and sorrow,
So do you want to love me, I said, Amen – tomorrow.
Tomorrow, Lord, I'll say it then, that's when I'll say Amen,
I need to get it clear, can I just run through that again?
You say that I will need the joy, to bear the pain and sorrow,
Well, yes, I think I've got it straight, I'll say Amen – tomorrow.
He said, Look, I'm not asking you to spend an hour with me
A quick salvation sandwich and a cup of sanctity,
The cost is you, not half of you, but every single bit,
Now tell me, will you love me? I said Amen – I quit.

I'm very sorry Lord I said, I'd like to love you,
But I don't think religion is a manly thing to do.
He said forget religion then, and think about my Son,
And tell me if you're man enough to do what he has done.
Are you man enough to see the need, and man enough to go,
Man enough to care for those whom no one wants to know,
Man enough to say the thing that people hate to hear,
To battle through Gethsemane in loneliness and fear.
And listen! Are you man enough to stand it at the end,
The moment of betrayal by the kisses of a friend,
Are you man enough to hold your tongue, and man enough to cry?
When nails break your body-are you man enough to die?
Man enough to take the pain, and wear it like a crown,
Man enough to love the world and turn it upside down,
Are you man enough to love me, I ask you once again?
I said, Oh Lord, I'm frightened, but I also said Amen.
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen; Amen, Amen, Amen,
I said, Oh Lord, I'm frightened, but I also said, Amen.

The love that Jesus is asking for is not easy.

And just listen to what Jesus asks Peter – the three love questions

Do you love me enough to die? (agape)

Do you love me enough to die? (agape)

Do you love me as a friend (philio)

Some commentators describe this passage as a downward progression.

Do you ever have this conversation on the night before dustbin day?

Can you put the dustbins out?(grunt – meaning no)

Ok, can you open the door for me while I put the dustbins out? (grunt – meaning no)

Ok, can you give me a smile while I lift 25kg of rubbish and carry it up the road?

Yes of course I will smile at you.

Downward progression

Why does Jesus use this downward progression...

Well just remember Peter had already given Jesus the answer to the agape question

He said to Jesus – I love you so much that I will die for you – (Matthew 26:35)

I am sure when he said those words he would have meant them. But Jesus proved to Peter that without supernatural power from the Holy Spirit, he would even swear by God's name that he didn't even know Jesus.

So when Jesus asked, "Do you LOVE (AGAPE) ME? Peter was ashamed but honest and answered, "I love you with a conditional-human love (Phileo), that is all I have Lord."

The third time Jesus said... DO YOU PHILEO love me? And Peter wept saying, YOU know LORD that I do...

Jesus replied saying, "that is enough. then said.. go and WAIT for the Holy Spirit for POWER to serve the church with MY LOVE (AGAPE) and you will be my witness and die for my name.

And this is it

You cannot love Jesus – you cannot love your family – you cannot love the church you cannot love the Salvation Army – without the power of the Holy Spirit.

This amazing story ends very simply

Lord, you know that we fail you;
Our sins, how sorely they grieve you!
Many times have we fallen, Lord, lift us up again.
May we walk to be worthy of the call that is ours,
May your will and your purpose
Claim our undivided powers!

Lord, you know that we love you!
Help that love to be true;

Help that love to be agape love

Help that love to be the love that will do anything for you

Fill our lives with your Spirit's power,
Lord of love, make us strong!
We who to Christ belong.

Simply this morning, all we need to do is this:

Hear Jesus asking: '(your name here _____), do you love me?'

Do you love Jesus?

Yes Lord, you know that I love you – but I need your spirit to turn my weak love into something so powerful that there is nothing I won't do you for.

Song Number 506

Lord, you know that we love you,
You know our thoughts and intentions;
Know the depth of devotion found in our lives today.
If our love has weakened, if our fervour has waned,
Turn us, Lord, by your Spirit,
Let us love with love unfeigned.

Lord, you know that we love you!
Help that love to be true;
Fill our lives with your Spirit's power,
Lord of love, make us strong!
We who to Christ belong.

2 Lord, you know that we fail you;

Our sins, how sorely they grieve you!
Many times have we fallen, Lord, lift us up again.
May we walk to be worthy of the call that is ours,
May your will and your purpose
Claim our undivided powers!

Howard Davies

A CLOSING PRAYER

Great Creator God, You loved me first before I ever loved You, so thank You for first loving me. Only then could I possibly have loved You (1 John 4:19). I thank You for your agape, sacrificial love for me, who is so undeserving, and in Jesus' holy name I pray.

BENEDICTION

When Jesus met Peter on that beach,
after Peter had denied knowing him three times,
Jesus didn't:
confront him and make him feel small;
hold a grudge for years;
ask him to grovel and plead in the sand;
order him to work hard for his forgiveness.

When Peter met Jesus on that beach,
after he had denied knowing him three times,
Jesus asked him three times:

'Do you love me?'

And then he gave him a new start, a fresh beginning.

'Come, be my disciple,' he said, 'follow me.'

When we meet Jesus each morning,

after another day of ups and downs,

Jesus doesn't:

confront us and make us feel small;

hold a grudge for years;

ask us to grovel and plead in the sand;

order us to work hard for our forgiveness.

Instead,

Jesus asks us again:

'Do you love me?'

even with the little love we have,

and he offers us a new start, a fresh beginning.

'Come, be my disciple,' he says, 'follow me.'

Jesus reinstates Peter

S O N O F J O H N R A L E A D F S
B G L O R I F Y G O D V Z V A V U
I E S S Z L I F C N M H T A E D F
R S H A E Z Y E T C V K Y O K L E
W E E T P Y R E D E U G Z N G K M
C H E M O X X D X I S N E I L S E
S T P T W A N T E D S T T T W U V
E N V D S O L W L V G C I M M S O
T A F R I T L L W O N K I M R E L
A H W E M A Z L T K E D A P O J U
T T K S O K R O O H L A W Y L N O
S E N S N E S M X F I Q T K L E Y
N R P E P C P Y V S Z N O I L P O
I O A D E A B C C N J O G A N M D
E M L M T R L S R D B F M S Z G P
R I N Z E E E O T W G B T H I R D
L S H U R T B V O O S F M X D L O

all things	death	disciple
do you love me	dressed	eating
feed	follow me	glorify God
hurt	Jesus	know
lambs	lead	more than these
old	reinstates	sheep
Simon Peter	son of John	take care
testimony	third	wanted

“Do you
LOVE
me?” ...

“Feed my
SHEEP.”

John 21:17

