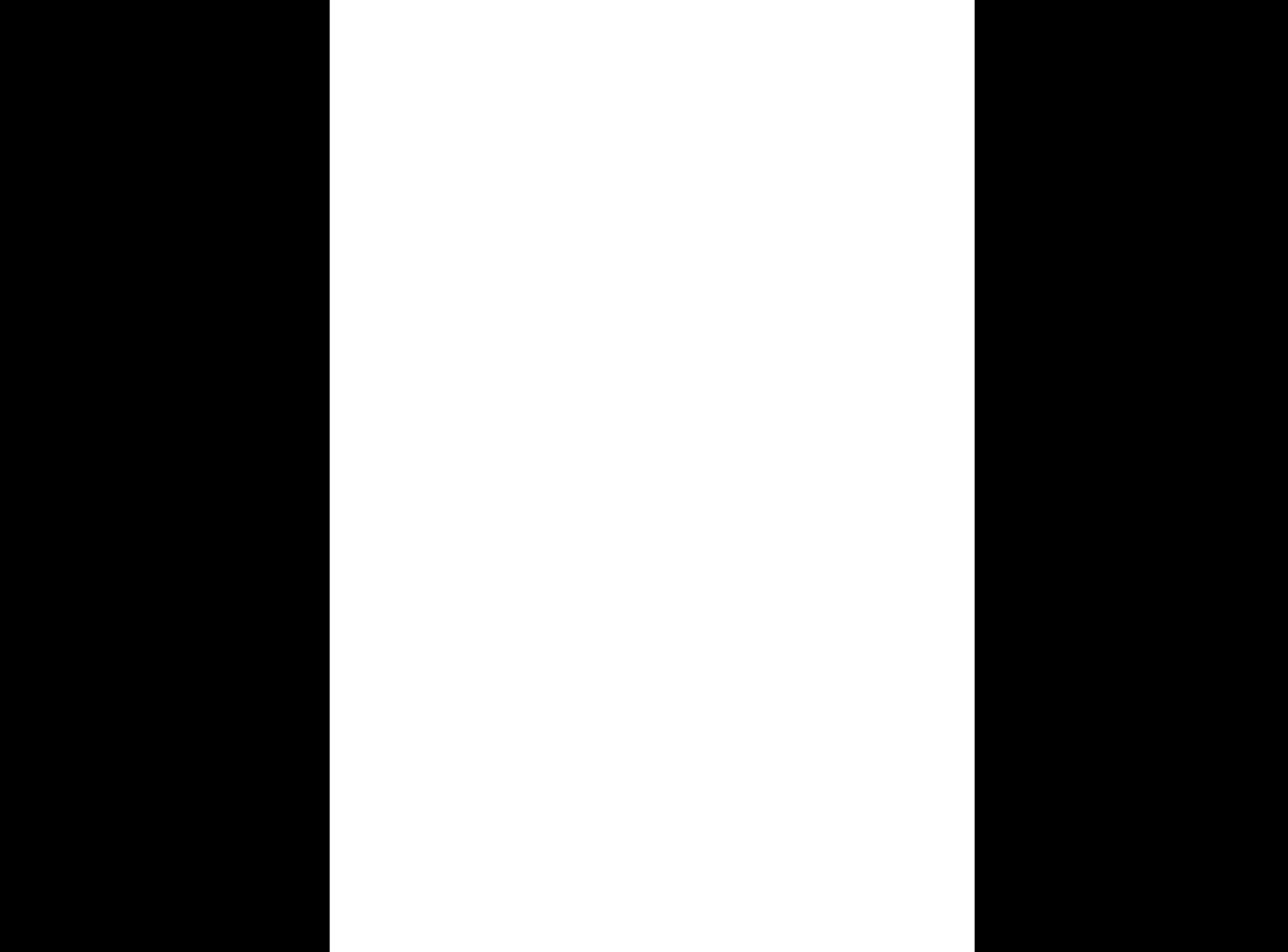


*Why is there a
John 21?*



RAFFAELLO Sanzio *The Handing-over the Keys* 1515, Tempera on paper
mounted on canvas, 345 x 535 cm Victoria and Albert Museum, London

The elephant in John's Gospel

The elephant in John's Gospel

John 13:36-38

³⁶Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." ³⁷Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the cock crows, you will disown me three times!"

The elephant in John's Gospel

John 18:15-27

¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, ¹⁶but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there and brought Peter in. ¹⁷"You are not one of his disciples, are you?" the girl at the door asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." ¹⁸It was cold, and the servants and officials stood round a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

The elephant in John's Gospel

John 18:15-27

¹⁹Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰“I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.” ²²When Jesus said this, one of the officials near by struck him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded. ²³“If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” ²⁴Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.

The elephant in John's Gospel

John 18:15-27

²⁵As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not." ²⁶One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a cock began to crow.

The setup for the fourth appearance of Jesus

John 21:1-3

¹Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³“I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.”
So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

The question no fisherman likes

John 21:4-5

⁴Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered.

Some unasked for, yet great advice

John 21:6

⁶He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

“It is the Lord!”

John 21:7-8

⁷Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.

A huge catch

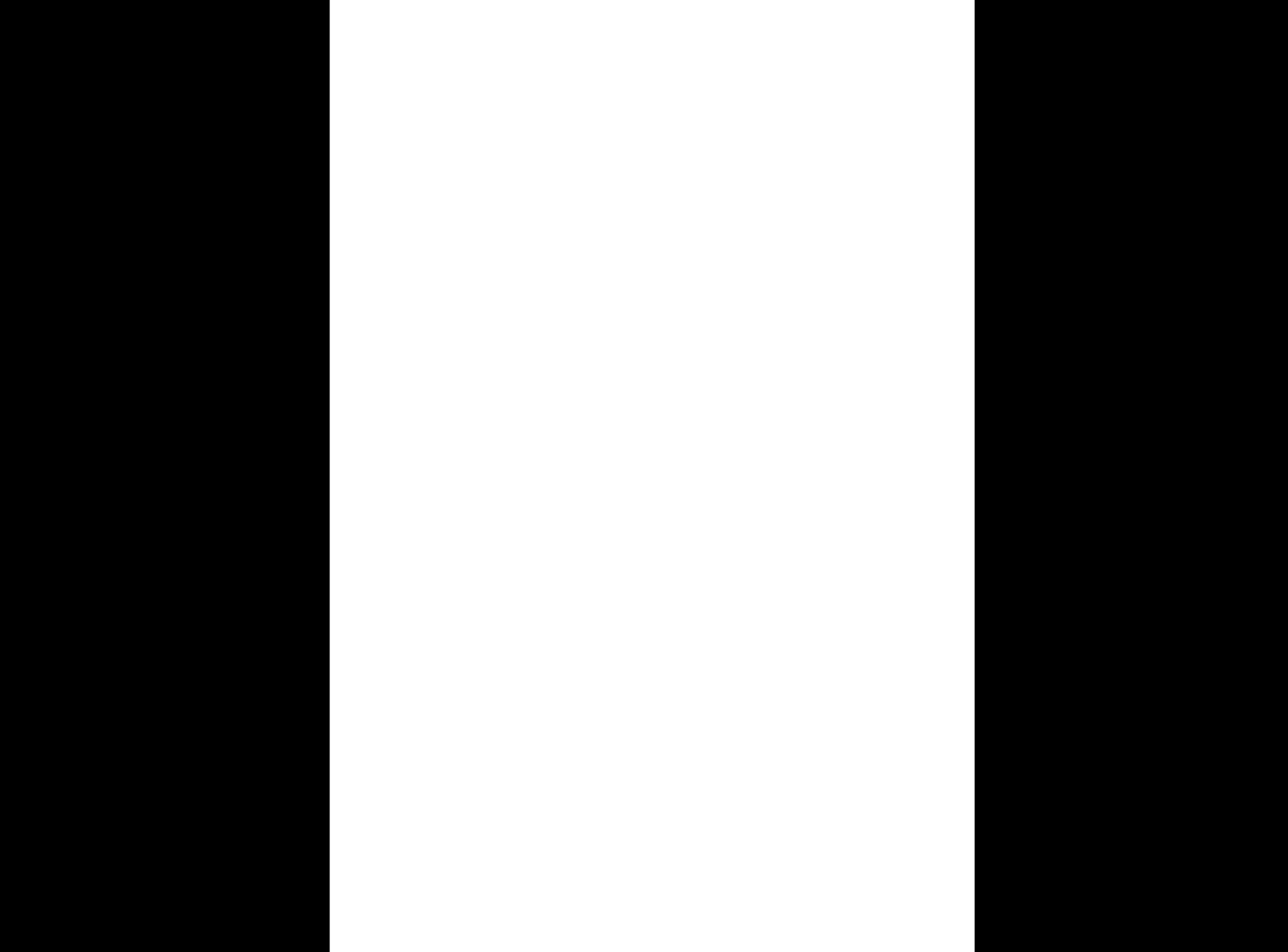
John 21:9-11

⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” ¹¹Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.

“Come and have breakfast”

John 21:12-14

¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.



Here it comes...

John 21:15

¹⁵When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter...



The heart of the matter...

John 21:15

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



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The heart of the matter...

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Options:

1. The fish
2. The boat and fishing

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Options:

1. The fish
2. The boat and fishing
3. The other men gathered there

The heart of the matter...

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Options:

1. The fish
2. The boat and fishing
3. The other men gathered there
4. Is your love really GREATER than the other disciples?

The heart of the matter...

John 21:15

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Options:

1. The fish
2. The boat and fishing
3. The other men gathered there
4. Is your love really GREATER than the other disciples?

Matthew 26:33

³³Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”

An honest answer

John 21:15

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

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



“Feed my Lambs”

John 21:15

¹⁵When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”



“Feed my Lambs”

John 21:15

¹⁵When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

1 Peter 5:1-4

¹To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow-elder, a witness of Christ’s sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ²Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; ³not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

The Restoration Process on steroids

John 21:16-17

¹⁶Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” ¹⁷The 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.



Why the question “Do you love me?”

John 21:16-17

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Notice what he DOESN'T talk about

Notice what he DOESN'T talk about

- 1. How could you possibly have done that?**

Notice what he DOESN'T talk about

1. How could you possibly have done that?
2. What were you thinking?

Notice what he DOESN'T talk about

1. How could you possibly have done that?
2. What were you thinking?
3. How have you **PROVED** you love me?

Notice what he DOESN'T talk about

- 1. How could you possibly have done that?**
- 2. What were you thinking?**
- 3. How have you PROVED you love me?**
- 4. Are you really sorry about this?**

Notice what he DOESN'T talk about

1. How could you possibly have done that?
2. What were you thinking?
3. How have you PROVED you love me?
4. Are you really sorry about this?
5. Have you done any restitution to fix this?

Notice what he DOESN'T talk about

- 1. How could you possibly have done that?**
- 2. What were you thinking?**
- 3. How have you PROVED you love me?**
- 4. Are you really sorry about this?**
- 5. Have you done any restitution to fix this?**
- 6. Have you spent some serious time in prayer/Bible Study?**

The painful part of restoration

John 21:16-17

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Luke 22:56-62

⁵⁶A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.” ⁵⁷But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said.

The painful part of restoration

John 21:16-17

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Luke 22:56-62

⁵⁸A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” “Man, I am not!” Peter replied.

The painful part of restoration

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Luke 22:56-62

⁵⁹About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.” ⁶⁰Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the cock crowed.

The painful part of restoration

John 21:16-17

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Luke 22:56-62

⁶¹The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the cock crows today, you will disown me three times.” ⁶²And he went outside and wept bitterly.

“It is well, especially after a foul sin, that the Christian should well probe the wound. It is right that he should examine himself; for sin gives grave cause for suspicion, and it would be wrong for a Christian to live an hour with a suspicion concerning his spiritual estate, unless he occupy that hour in examination of himself.”



~ Charles Haddon Spurgeon - from the sermon *Lovest Thou Me?* Delivered on Sabbath Morning, September 7th, At New Park Street Chapel, Southwark.

The Restoration Process completed...

John 21:18-19

¹⁸I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”



Michelangelo Merisi, aka Caravaggio (d. 1610):
Crucifixion of St. Peter, Santa Maria del Popolo, Rome.

And allow me to suggest one profitable way of improving the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. That is: while you are partaking of it, my friends, renew your dedication to Christ. Seek this morning to give yourselves over afresh to your Master. Say with your hearts, what I shall now say with my lips: "Oh my precious Lord Jesus, I do love thee; thou knowest I have in some degree given myself to thee up to this time, thanks to thy grace! Blessed be thy name, that thou hast accepted the deeds of so unworthy a servant. O Lord, I am conscious that I have not devoted myself to thee as I ought; I know that in many things I have come short. I will make no resolution to live better to thine honor, but I will offer the prayer that thou wouldst help me so to do. Oh! Lord, I give to thee my health, my life, my talents, my power, and all I have! Thou hast bought me, and bought me wholly: then, Lord, take me this morning, baptize me in the Spirit; let me now feel an entire affection to thy blessed person. May I have that love which conquers sin and purifies the soul, that love which can dare danger and encounter difficulties for thy sake. May I henceforth and for ever be a consecrated vessel of mercy, having been chosen of thee from before the foundation of the world! Help me to hold fast that solemn choice of thy service which I desire this morning, by thy grace to renew."

And when you drink the blood of Christ, and eat his flesh spiritually in the type and in the emblem, then I beseech you, let the solemn recollection of his agony and suffering for you inspire you with a greater love, that you may be more devoted to his service than ever. If that be done, I shall have the best of churches; if that be done by us, the Holy Spirit helping us to carry it out, we shall all be good men and true, holding fast by him, and we shall not need to be ashamed in the awful day.

~ Charles Haddon Spurgeon - from the sermon *Lovest Thou Me?* Delivered on Sabbath Morning, September 7th, At New Park Street Chapel, Southwark.