

TREASURE QUEST

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF THE HEART

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When 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." Again 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." 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.

JOHN 21:15-17

INVESTING IN SOMETHING BIGGER THAN OURSELVES

Investing often means saying no right now to see a bigger reward down the road. For instance, according to a recent article, if someone had taken the \$399 they spent on the original Apple iPod in October 2001 and bought Apple stock instead, today it would be worth over \$330,000. If we want to find God's treasure for our lives, it takes this same kind of investing. It means we have to invest in something much bigger than ourselves. We have to invest in reaching the world. We can see this in Jesus' own priorities and in his interaction with his disciples.

Peter struggled with this. One moment he boldly declared his loyalty to Christ only to quickly and emphatically deny even knowing him the next. In John 21, we see Jesus in a very personal encounter restore Peter by challenging him to look beyond himself. Three times Jesus challenged Peter to "feed my sheep". This was no simple command. Peter had to look past his own fears and failures to understand where Jesus was working and where Jesus had been preparing him to go. Jesus was preparing him to go into all nations (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). Jesus' commission to Peter is also a commission to each of us. We cannot invest only in our own comfort and security, but we must give what it takes to accomplish the task as we both "go" and "feed" a very spiritually needy world.

Questions to Think About

What about you? Are you invested only in yourself, or are you invested in reaching the world for Christ?

How are you personally engaged in reaching the world for Jesus?

What is one thing you can do today to invest in His mission?