

## DO YOU LOVE ME? ASKED THREE TIMES

John 21:15-18 (written in red) *So when they had finished breakfast, Yeshua said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Tend My lambs.**" He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Messiah; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Shepherd My sheep.**" He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Messiah, You know all things; You know that I love You." Yeshua said to him, "**Tend My sheep.***

Yeshua asked Peter three times; do you love me"? If you look at Matt. 26:70, 72, and 74 you will see that Peter denied knowing the Messiah three times. He is revealing to Peter that when born again Believers start out they are lambs that need to be tended (fed the word). As the lambs get fed they turn into sheep. Then the sheep need shepherds. Yeshua was pointing out to Peter what He was expecting his disciples to do to help bring glory to the kingdom. Sheep must have a shepherd to lead them. The shepherd is higher than they are and can see much more of what is going on around them. He is there to direct and guide them to pure pastures and fresh still water. With sheep comes lambs. Lambs are babes in Yeshua. They need special attention and require milk only till they can handle solid food. This is the body of Yeshua. Wherever there are sheep there will be lambs and they need to be taught, provided for until they can sustain themselves.

There is also a thematic connection here. The three connection here is not coincidence, it is prophetic of Yeshua's death burial and resurrection. Yeshua was in the earth three days before He was resurrected. Whenever the number 3, 30, 300, 3000, etc is used it is usually Yah's way of showing us a prophetic connection we should pay attention to.

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Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Dec 9/16)