

Introduction

1. This is from the period of 40 days
2. Christ is raised but not ascended
3. This repeated question to Peter

1. THE BACKGROUND TO THESE WORDS

- 1) Peter's sad denials
 - (i) the place of them
 - (ii) the shame of them
- 2) The way in which Peter fell
 - (i) he did not know his own weakness
 - (ii) he did not watch and pray
- 3) The misery he felt for his failure
 - (i) "wept bitterly"
 - (ii) we suppose for 3 days – sorrow
- 4) The love of Christ to his people who fall
 - (i) Christ prepares this for Peter
 - (ii) Christ knew Peter's heart
APPLICATION: What a mercy! He knows our heart!

2. THE CHALLENGE OF THESE WORDS

- 1) What Christ most looks for in us is our love for him:
 - (i) love is the highest grace: 1 Cor. 13.
 - (ii) where love is, everything is
ILLUSTRATION: a. a family; b. a church
- 2) A repeated note in Christ's preaching:
 - (i) "If ye love me..."
 - (ii) "He that loveth father or mother..."

- (iii) "Thou hast left thy first love".
APPLICATION: Do you LOVE Christ?

- 3) The way our Lord challenges Peter:
 - (i) the experience of failure: "any meat?"
 - (ii) the fire – a reminder of another place
 - (iii) the 3-fold question – another reminder
- 4) The challenging use of words:
There are 2 words for "love" here: the word of Christ + that of Peter.
APPLICATION: "If anyone love not our Lord...anathema"

3. THE IMPORTANCE FOR US OF THESE WORDS

- 1) There is a great lesson here:
 - (i) v.3: "That night they caught nothing"
 - (ii) v.6: "The multitude of fishes".
OBSERVE: It was the word of Christ that made all the difference.
- 2) It explains the Day of Pentecost - and the Early Church – and every revival.
- 3) Today in this land we are like the disciples: "they caught nothing" (Explain).
- 4) What can alter this? (Techniques / Attractions / Clever ideas / etc?)
No! It must be the blessing of Christ.
APPLICATION: Shall we not seek more love to Christ + plead for Him to come and bless our churches again?

CONCLUSION

Examples in revivals.

PSALM**85: 6 – 13****44: 13 – 17****90: 14 - 17**