Long Story Short: Do You Love Jesus?

Reflect

1. What happens to a human being who neither receives nor expresses love?
2. Describe what love does to human beings. How does it change us?
3. What does it mean to you that “God is love”? (1 John 4:8)
4. Reflect on why loving Jesus is so critical to who you are as a son or daughter of God.

Read Your Bible

- Deuteronomy 6:4-7
- John 21:15-19

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. The reading from Deuteronomy is known as the Shema. It focuses us on two things: who God is and our relationship with Him. There is one God who indeed is God and we are to love Him. According to Jesus this is the essence of everything we need to know and do in our relationship with God. In your view, why is this so essential for believers to get right?
2. How is worship an expression of honoring who God is and loving God?
3. Jesus said the greatest commandment is, “To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself.” Why do you think Jesus added “to love your neighbor as yourself” to the Shema?
4. Jesus asked Peter three times: “Do you love me?” in response to Peter’s betrayal of Jesus. How does expressing our love for Jesus offset the times we betray our Lord through words or deeds?
5. What do you think Jesus meant when He said to Peter: “Feed my lambs” and “Take care of my sheep”? What does this mean for you as a follower of Jesus?
6. Jesus told Peter that Peter’s love for Jesus would lead Peter into challenging circumstances. How does your love for Jesus challenge you and lead you to places you may not want to go?
7. In what ways do you express your love for Jesus?

To love Jesus with who you are in word and deed will both change you and challenge you. To love Him with all your heart, soul, strength and mind will require you to forgive others who offend you as well as to serve others with a view that through your actions you are expressing your love for God. To love Jesus is to worship Him as Your Lord. You will lay aside other idolatrous focuses that want top priority in your life. You will have no other gods before you. And loving Jesus will lead you to a life with God both in this world and the next. Do you love Jesus? He asks us daily to answer that question and respond!

Pray

Lord Jesus, I love You! Again, I profess my love for You. You know that I love You Lord and my heart is Yours. You are my God, my Savior and My Lord. Take joy my King in what You hear. I love You Lord and let it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear. Amen.