*Monday, March 19, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

John 21:15-17 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. (16) He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. (17) He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. (KJV)

We love God because of the fact that God loved us first, and was willing to send His Son our way to deliver us from our own destructions, things we brought upon ourselves. We notice our Lord speaking to Peter three times encouraging him on how he could reciprocate the love of God in return. We see verse 15 begins with lambs, then progresses onto sheep, which simply is referring to the growing and maturing process of the Christian.

1 Peter 5:1-2 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: (2) Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; (KJV)

As we see illustrated in Peter’s writings to the Church, the reason why he was used of God and able to deliver the message of faith is because he understood the love of God, and was willing to endure despite some hardships and sufferings along the way. We also notice that Peter was not a hireling; not one who served God based on a monetary income, rather he was more concerned about their Spiritual outcome, which is much different than the doctrines that we hear about today.

1 Peter 5:3-4 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. (4) And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (KJV)

In order to be an example of one God’s chosen people you will need to learn how to grow and mature in the realm of the Spirit. You will find along the way that those that are called to ministry work are not there to be served; rather they are willing to lay down their lives so that they can serve and feed the flock of God to which they will have to give an account of some day.

Matthew 20:25-28 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. (26) But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; (27) And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: (28) Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. (KJV)

Those that truly know their calling and who it came from understand that in order to feed the flock effectively they need to lay down their lives for the brethren. Today we have many false prophets who do just the opposite, fleecing the flock rather than providing them the meat of the Word. Do you desire to answer the Lord’s calling today? Feed His sheep.