

## **Volume 6, Day 2: The Most Penetrating Question**

Jesus asked Peter a question that hurt his feelings. Like Peter we might be initially silent. Our human nature and individuality declares what or who we love. But the actual love we have toward another person is only discovered by the hurt of the question, "Do you love me?" This is true of love for another person or love for God. Peter loved Jesus in the way in which any natural man loves a good man. It is based on how pleasant the other's personality and expressions of themselves are to me. I may think that I have a deep love for the individual, but the love does not penetrate the surface impressions of the person. Love at this level has not been tested by deeper more intimate truth about the other person. True love does far more than profess verbally any affection for the other being. Jesus said, "Whoever will confess Me before men ..." What this means is to express your love not merely by your words, but also by everything you do regardless of what the other does or says.

Unless we are deeply hurt by the question, "Do you love me?" to the point that every doubt we might have about that love is gone, we must seek evidence in our actions that the love is true. We may say that we love God enormously, but our actions which indicate that God is not having His desires satisfied in us betray our confession as false. The word of God hurts as no sin can ever hurt because sin actually numbs feeling.

This question coming from the Lord intensifies feeling, until being hurt by Jesus is the most exquisite hurt conceivable. It hurts in a profoundly personal spiritual way. The word of the Lord pierces even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit so that there is no deception left in us. Such hurt will continue until the love for God is genuine and complete. The point of each hurt feeling is to bring revelation that at some level our love is more for us than for God.

My Confirming Scriptures:

My Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan