leading the way, the others following, they go. They toil all night, and eatch nothing. When morning dawned, Jesus from the shore spoke to them, and directed them where to cast their nets for a draught. Obeying, they were successful. John is the first to recognize Jesus. He tells Peter. And with his noted haste Peter casts him self into the sea and swims ashore. The others follow in the boat. Landing, there are a fire kindled, and bringing of the fish they had taken they make for themselves the morning meal.

At that breakfast, thus prepared on the shore, Jesus is present, and the disciples, at least seven of them. Of the conversation that passed between them while they are we have no record; but of a conversation that occurred as soon as they had dined (breakfasted) we have a full record.

Turning to Peter, Christ asks Simon Peter, son of Jonas, loves thou Me more than those? That is more than those, the rest of the disciples, love Me. A reminder of Peter's own words on a former occasion -"Though all men should forsake Thee, yet will not 1." Too ready to assert his Superiority, as he had been before his greivous sin and fall. Christ asks him if he is now ready to assert that superiority-if he has still the same feeling of self-confidence and self-assertion. His reply answers the question, and in the negative. No. Peter no longer compares himself with others, but appeals to the Searcher of Hearts for the truth of his words, "I love thee." word that Peter uses, philo, means "I love thee dearly." He means to say I love Thee with true, hearty, personal affection.

Christ's question is repeated, but the words "more than these" are omitted. It is repeated a third time: and the third time Christ uses Peter's word philo, (He had not used it before) "Dost thou love me dearly with a warm personal affection?" Peter's answer is more emphatic than ever, "Lord Thou knowest all things, &c." Grieved, because Christ questioned his love. Peter had denied his Lord three times, and three times does the Lord ask concerning his love.

Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep. The command "feed my sheep" is repeated, and in precisely the same words, but in the original Greek the words are different. The three words used are, arma, lambs; probata, sheep; and probata, which some render "the choicest of the flock." For Peter's understanding of the command, see I Peter, 5:2. Loving Christ he was qualified for this work of feeding and tending Christ's flock.

Vs. 18 and 19 refer to a wholly different subject, viz., to the manner of Peter's death. So the writer of this Gospel explains, and Peter was dead when he wrote, forfit is supposed he was crucified in the year 67 or 68.

Vs. 20, 21.— In response to the command "follow me," Peter seems to heve risen up,

and literally followed Christ; and looking back he seen John coming. Whereupon he asks, "and what shall this man do? Prompted by curiosity the question is not directly answered. The questioner is told that John's affairs are no concern of his, that his duty is to follow Christ.

#### LESSONS.

- (1.) Those who have given Christ reason to suspect their love, may expect to have their love tested.
- (2.) Christ would have us assure ourselves of our love to Him. Assurance is attainable.
- (3.) Love to Christ is the grand requisite for service. It is the Breat qualification for the pastoral office.
- (4.) Discipleship consists in this following Christ.
- (5.) Attention to our own duties is better than inquisitiveness concerning the affairs of others. Follow Christ, and you will neither have the time nor the inclination to meddle with the affairs of others.

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