

**Title: One Two Three- John 21 15-25**

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**Read:**

<sup>15</sup>After breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Master, you know I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>He then asked a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Master, you know I love you." Jesus said, "Shepherd my sheep." <sup>17-19</sup>Then he said it a third time: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, "Do you love me?" so he answered, "Master, you know everything there is to know. You've got to know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I'm telling you the very truth now: When you were young you dressed yourself and went wherever you wished, but when you get old you'll have to stretch out your hands while someone else dresses you and takes you where you don't want to go." He said this to hint at the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. And then he commanded, "Follow me." <sup>20-21</sup>Turning his head, Peter noticed the disciple Jesus loved following right behind. When Peter noticed him, he asked Jesus, "Master, what's going to happen to him?" <sup>22-23</sup>Jesus said, "If I want him to live until I come again, what's that to you? You—follow me." That is how the rumor got out among the brothers that this disciple wouldn't die. But that is not what Jesus said. He simply said, "If I want him to live until I come again, what's that to you?" <sup>24</sup>This is the same disciple who was eyewitness to all these things and wrote them down. And we all know that his eyewitness account is reliable and accurate. <sup>25</sup>There are so many other things Jesus did. If they were all written down, each of them, one by one, I can't imagine a world big enough to hold such a library of books.

**Think:**

So why would Jesus ask Peter if he loved him three times? Imaging the scene, Jesus says "Peter do you love me". So Peter says "Yes I love you." Jesus says "Peter do you love me". So Peter getting a little frustrated says "Yes I do love you." Jesus says once more "Peter do you love me". So Peter shouts "Yes, yes, yes, yes I do love you." But then we must remember this is the same Peter that denied he knew Jesus three times at the Crucifixion. Do you think just maybe Jesus is showing Peter forgiveness three times? What do we take away from this? Have you been hurt by someone and found it hard to forgive them. Maybe a mate has said some horrible things about you and you have found it hard to forgive them. It's interesting that Peter is the one in need of forgiveness here, because earlier in his life he asked Jesus questions about forgiveness. Mathew 18:21-22 says *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.* Seventy seven times doesn't mean that you give up on seventy eight, it means that you may have to forgive someone many times. It doesn't mean that you leave yourself in a situation where someone keeps hurting you either, Jesus wouldn't want you to do that. But remember when you think about if you want to forgive someone, just like Peter you may be the one needing forgiveness next time.

**Pray:**

Father thank you for your forgiveness of my selfish ways. Please give me a heart to forgive others. Amen,

**Action:**

If you forgive someone and it doesn't put you in danger you want to show them some kindness. Next time you see them make an extra effort to be cool with them. Bye.