

We all heard that the Christ had held a private session with the apostle Peter concerning his love and commitment¹. Peter was asked several times whether he loved his Lord, and the emphasis was on comparing that love to that of the rest of the disciples.

Before the crucifixion, Peter had stated very boldly that he would never deny Christ², and we all thought that the special meeting was merely a response to Peter's rather public denial during the trial³. It appeared to be a Master rebuking His servant, but in a much gentler manner than some of the parables that Jesus had presented to us. But in truth, we had all denied our Lord, and we had done it on the run. At least Peter had been at the trial to face his inquisitor.

I had denied Him then, and I had denied Him at other times as well. So it was no real surprise when I received a visit of my own from my Teacher who was now my Savior. Even though I had heard how Peter had answered the great question, I found it difficult to find my own response. I felt overwhelmed by my sins and cowardice in the face of the Evil One. But the Lord gently brought out my true feelings so that I could confess my love for Him without hypocrisy.

I knew that I was not one of just a select few that Christ had spoken to in this way. I suspected that He had come to each of us to verify or confirm our commitment to the New Kingdom and its King. And He continues to do this to His followers, generation after generation – looking for those who will feed His sheep.

1. John 21:15-17
2. Mark 14:27-31
3. Mark 14:66:72