

Tend My Sheep

What could be greater than to be seen doing the things Christ declared to be proofs of love for Him? He said, addressing the leader of the apostles, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” (Jn 21:16). When Peter confessed that he did, the Lord added, “If you love Me, tend My sheep.” The Master did not ask the disciple if he loved Him in order to get information (why would He when He already knows everyone’s heart?), but to teach us how great an interest He has in the care of these sheep.

Clearly, then, those who labor for these sheep that Christ values so highly will receive a great reward. For when we see anyone caring for members of our household, or our flocks, we consider that person’s zeal for them to be a sign of love towards ourselves. Yet all these things can be bought with money. Imagine, then, how great a gift Christ will give to those who tend the flock He purchased, not with money nor anything of that kind, but by His own death. For He gave His own life to pay for the herd.

John Chrysostom