

Fellowship Bible Church  
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## PERSONAL SIGNIFICANCE IN TRANSFORMATION John 21/John 10

He could have been the poster child for Inferiority Complex and Insignificance. It was late spring in 1969 when the door bell rang, and Linda went to answer the door. Little did we know that we would experience something that would impact our ministry forever.

On the other side of the screen door she could see only the top of his head. His eyes were staring straight down, and she heard the words “My name is Jan K, and I just gave my life to Christ. Some people told me that someone here could help me.” We invited him in and introduced ourselves, but there was still no eye contact; and the words in his communication were soft and short.

Over the next few weeks, Jan began to learn of his significance in Christ, that he was created in the image of God for a purpose that far exceeded his perception of himself. We began to learn something as well. Not only was Jan brilliant but God was teaching us of the significance **every** person can have in His plan. This Ceramic Engineering major was being transformed before our eyes by God’s grace and purpose.

A few weeks later, we were preparing for a state-wide banquet on the Ohio State University Campus. At our weekly student meeting, I asked for volunteers who would share their story of coming to Christ and the changes He had made in their lives. Among those raising their hands were star athletes, fraternity presidents, and student leaders from a cross-section of campus. Then I saw Jan’s hand go up. My first thought was “No Lord! Not Jan; he’s too shy.”

The night of the banquet, before 1500 people, it was Jan’s turn. “Hello, my name is Jan K; my major is Ceramic Engineering. A few weeks ago I gave my life to Christ, and He gave me a purpose for living—a purpose to change the world and not simply design a better toilet seat.” Needless to say, he brought the house down, and there was not a dry eye from that point on. Those words not only set the tone for the evening but challenged each person present.

The past two weeks we have focused on six of the most penetrating words Jesus ever spoke. Six simple words that distinctly define the significance each believer has in the transformation of lives from the home to the world. “Do you love Me? Tend my Sheep.” Six words that directly affect each and every one listening to this exhortation for those who have chosen to follow Him. These six words not only reveal the character and purpose of the “**Person** of Christ” but as importantly are to be the revealed character of the “**Body** of Christ.”

That being true, the question each of us cannot avoid is “What does this mean for me?” Most simply stated, it means each of us—regardless of how unconfident we may feel—have a personal significance in the transformation of our world.

## Life Response

1. This week MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on 1 Peter 4:10-11 “*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*”
  - (a) How does this passage compliment the exhortation Jesus gave us in John 21:15-17 to tend or shepherd the sheep?
  - (b) What can you personally draw from this passage that would give you the confidence to know and shepherd those under your influence?
2. If you were to create a collage of words from John 10:10-18; 25-31 that would establish a picture of a shepherd, what words or phrases would you use? How do you personally identify with the picture you have created?
3. As you think about your present role or position and the influence God can empower you to have through the gift(s) He has given, what stands out as the most significant impact that would serve as litmus of effectiveness from John 10 and why?
4. What do you see in this passage (John 10) that makes your role as a shepherd critical in the life of those entrusted to you?

*“The church does not need brilliant personalities but faithful servants of Jesus and the brethren.”*  
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer from “Ordination As Shared Servanthood”

## **THE TRANSITIONAL POWER OF SIX SIMPLE WORDS**

### **John 21:15-17**

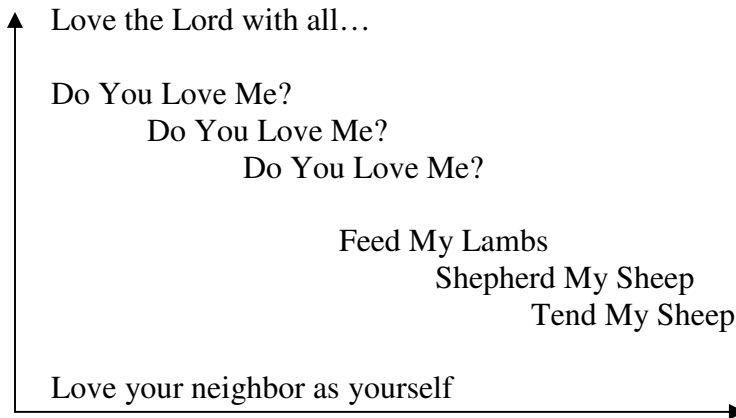
- \* The First direct challenge to the *disciples*---  
with the view of the church
- \* The Fulfillment to the *promise* of the church
- \* The Foundation of the *church*
- \* The Fundamental *character* of every believer  
in the church

Do you love (sacrificial) Me?  
(sacrificial)  
(affectionate)

Tend My lambs  
Shepherd My sheep  
Tend My sheep

## Four Principles

√ Personalizes...the Great Commission



Comes down to the personal choice of my obedience.

√ Authenticity...the litmus of our love for Jesus

√ Obedience...the most basic expression of humility and submission

√ Stewardship...the entrusting to each believer the care, shepherding, nurturing for those whom bled and died

√ Transitional...the transformation from a  
follower to leader  
observer to participation  
watching to making  
talking to walking

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FEED THE SHEEP?

### Immediate: Make NO Assumptions

1. John 4:7-14; 7:37-38  
Water / Salvation
2. John 6:35; 45-51 (1 Pet 2:1-2; 2 Tim 3:16-17)  
Bread / Word

### Intuitive: Make Every Attempt

Most central word . . .

. . . to Know (an experiential, relational knowledge)

10:7-9, 10b The spiritual relationships of others  
. . . only Jesus

10:10a-13 The consequences of no relationship  
. . . death, destruction, disillusionment

10:11; 17 The commitment of a shepherd  
. . . becomes more intimate, convicting

## **Prayer**

Father in heaven, we come to You confessing our inability to understand the magnitude of Your person, Your character, and Your love for each one of us. We confess our total dependence upon You through Holy Spirit to guide us and teach us more of You.

We come to You confessing our sin that apart from Your grace and forgiveness would serve as a barrier in our ability to understand and experience Your love and desire for each of us.

We thank You for the price You paid through the blood sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus, for our sin and the privilege of receiving Your forgiveness.

We thank You for the honor of being called Your children in our personal relationship with You.

Now I ask that You prepare My heart not only to hear Your truth but that You will create in me the **desire** to respond to Your truth. I am entrusting myself to the power of Holy Spirit to make Your truth real and a vital part of my life.

I thank You now for what You will accomplish in my life and my church family.

Amen