

Ephesians Series

Lesson #145

April 10, 2022

Dean Bible Ministries

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Feeding the Sheep
Ephesians 4:11; John 21:15–17



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Shepherds (Pastors)

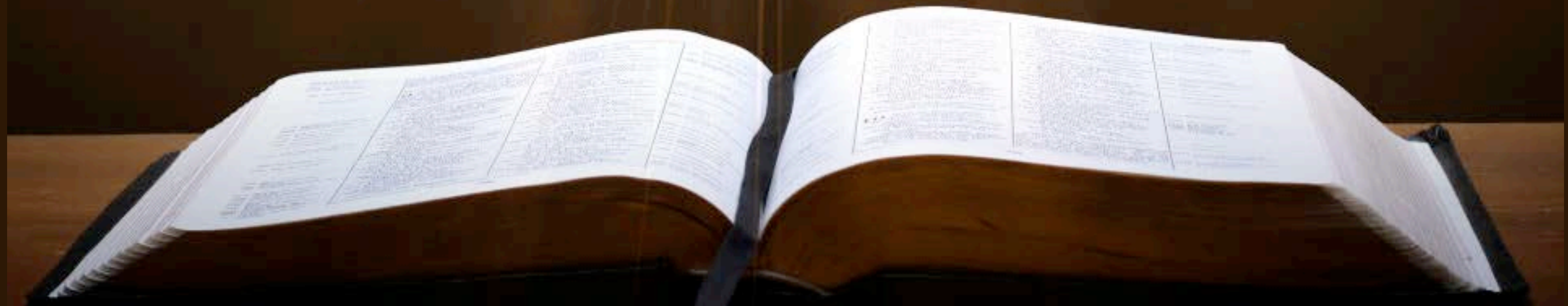


Eph. 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Eph. 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”

What the Bible Teaches About

The Shepherd in the Old Testament (Pastor)



Conclusion:

- **Leads**
- **Guides**
- **Feeds with knowledge and understanding**
- **Heal those wounded by sin**
- **Secures**
- **Restores the scattered**
- **Seeks the lost**
- **Protects**
- **Corrects**

Isa. 40:11, “He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.”

1-הָרַחַץ *ra'ah-1* to feed,
graze, pasture, tend,
shepherd; also
metaphorically: to lead a
people, to rule ~NIDOTTE

Deut. 8:3, “So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”

What the Bible Teaches About

Shepherds/Pastors in the New Testament



Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd. Human pastors are “under shepherds”.

John 10:11, “ ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.’ ”

John 10:14, “ ‘I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.’ ”

Heb. 13:20, “Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,”

1 Pet. 2:25, “For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

Jesus Christ is the Great Shepherd.

Heb. 13:20, “Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,”

Acts 20:17, “From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.”

Acts 20:28, “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

ἐπίσκοπος *episkopos*

NOUN

acc masc plur

overseer, bishop,

guardian

ποιμαίνω *poimainō*

VERB

pres act infin

to shepherd, feed

Elder = Office, reference to spiritual maturity (Titus 1:5–6);

Bishop/Overseer = The authority/oversight function of the office (Titus 1:7 is synonymously parallel to “elder” in Titus 1:5; 1 Tim. 3:1–2);

Pastor = The role and responsibility to feed the sheep through teaching

1 Pet. 5:1, “The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder.”

πρεσβύτερος *presbuteros*

NOUN acc masc plur comp

“older; elder”

1 Pet. 5:2, “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers,”

ποιμαίνω *poimainō*

VERB

aor act impera 2 plur

“to shepherd, feed”

ἐπισκοπέω *episkopeō*

VERB

pres act part masc plur

nom

**“to manage, oversee,
take care of”**

Conclusion

The role of the pastor:

- **Leads**
- **Guides**
- **Feeds with the Word of God**
- **Protects**
- **Corrects**

***All accomplished through the teaching of the Word of God, instruction of how to think, how to live, how to make biblically wise choices, how to trust God.**

What the Bible Teaches About

Feeding the Sheep



Overall Context:

1. Purpose of the gospel.

John 20:30, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

John 20:31, “but these [signs] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Overall Context:

1. Second purpose of the gospel.

John 10:10, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

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John 21:15, “So when they had eaten breakfast,

“Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?’

“He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’

“He said to him, ‘Feed My lambs.’ ”

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ἀγαπάω *agapaō* 2 sing pres act indic to love

**φιλέω *phileō* 1 sing pres act indic to love, have affection for;
kiss; ask, pray; befriend**

- 1. *phileō* is the most general word for love or regard with affection.**
- 2. *phileō* mainly denotes the attraction of people to one another who are close together both inside and outside the family; it includes concern, care and hospitality, also love for things in the sense of being fond of. Ideas related to *phileo* do not have a clear religious emphasis.**
- 3. *agapaō* in Greek is often quite colourless as a word, appearing frequently as an alternative to, or a synonym with, *eraō* and *phileō*, meaning to be fond of, treat respectfully, be pleased with, welcome. When, on rare occasions, it refers to someone favoured by a god [it describes] a generous move by one for the sake of the other.**

***Phileo* is the general word, emphasizing affection, concern, care, fondness; *Agapao* is colorless and in a religious context emphasizes the favor of a god, or a generous, selfless move by one person for the sake of another.**

- 4. In the New Testament, this changes. *Agapao* is the dominant word, “*phileō*, ... remains in every case a more limited and colourless word.**

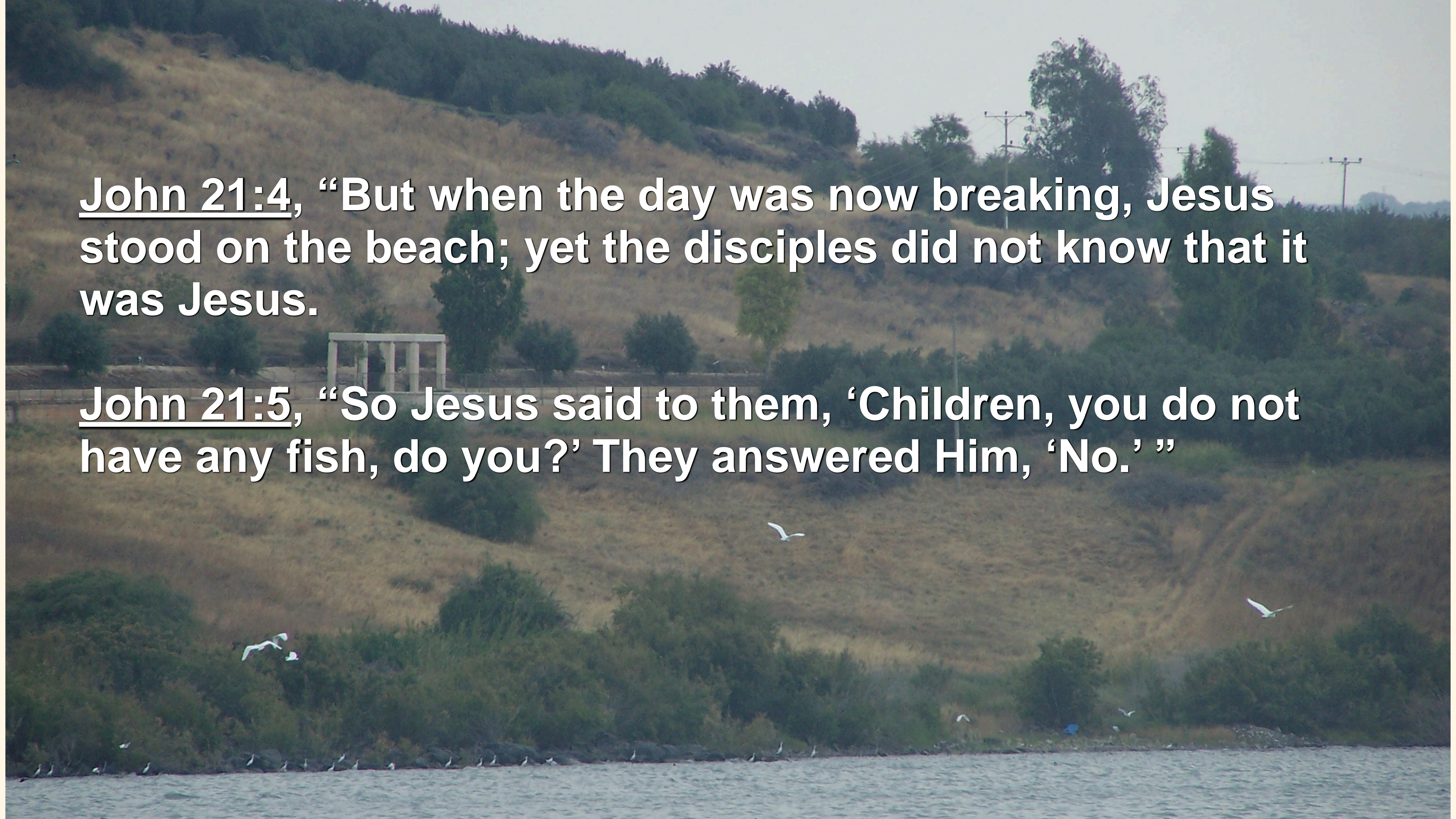
- 5. The main emphasis of *phileō* is on love for people who are closely connected, either by blood or by faith.**

John 21:1, “After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested *Himself* in this way.

John 21:2, “Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the *sons* of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.”



John 21:3, “Simon Peter said to them, ‘I am going fishing.’ They said to him, ‘We will also come with you.’ They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.”



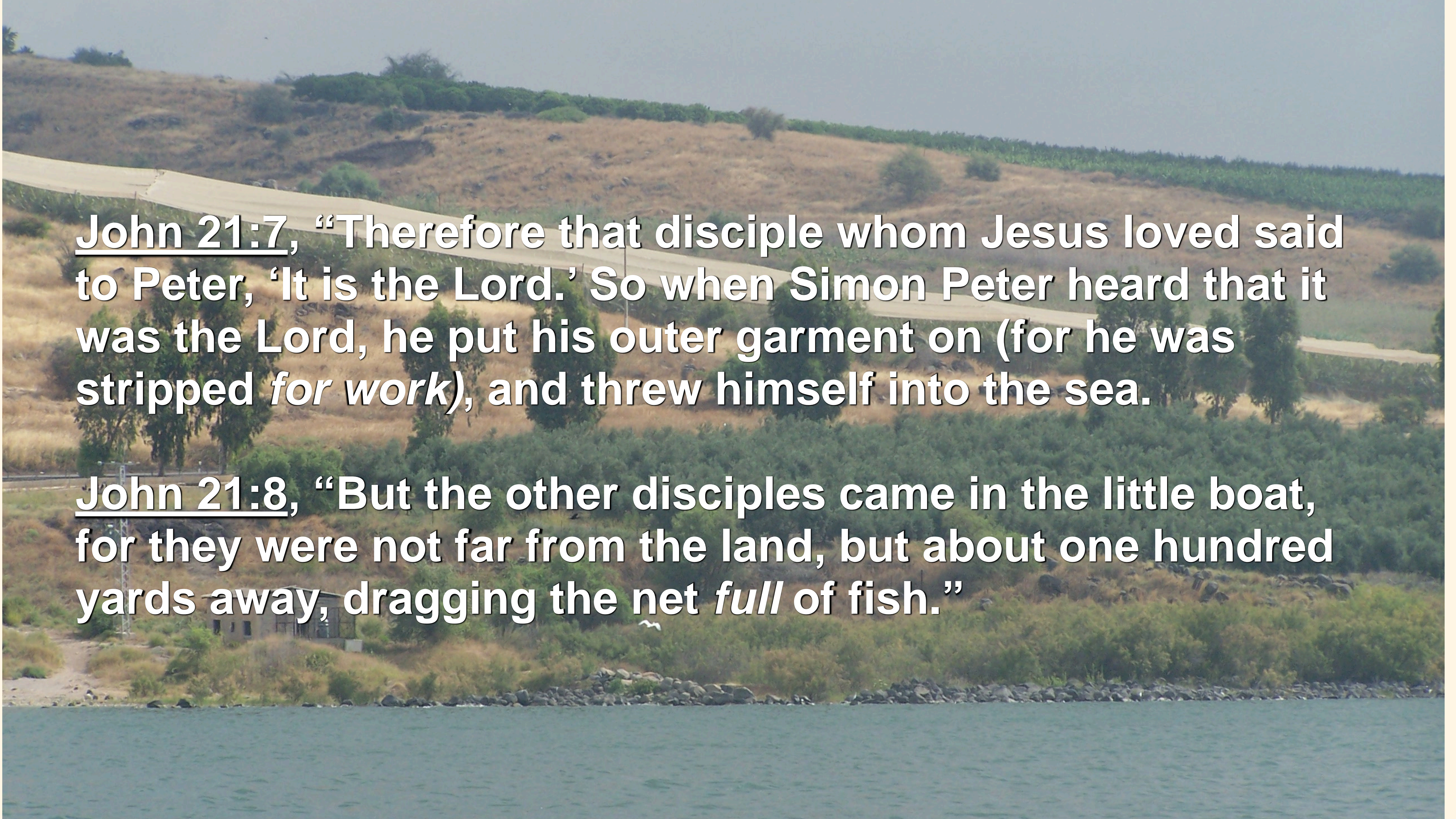
John 21:4, “But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

John 21:5, “So Jesus said to them, ‘Children, you do not have any fish, do you?’ They answered Him, ‘No.’ ”



John 21:6, “And He said to them, ‘Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.”





John 21:7, “Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord.’ So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped *for work*), and threw himself into the sea.

John 21:8, “But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net *full* of fish.”

A scenic view of a riverbank with a waterfall and a hillside in the background. The foreground shows a rocky shoreline with a small waterfall cascading into the water. The middle ground is filled with lush green vegetation, including palm trees and various shrubs. In the background, a dry, hilly landscape with sparse vegetation and a utility pole is visible under a clear sky.

John 21:9, “So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal **fire *already* laid and fish placed** on it, and bread.

John 21:10, “Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish which you have now caught.’”

John 21:11, “Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn.”

Four Synonyms for Interpretation

Love

ἀγαπάω
agapao

φιλέω
phileo

Know

οἶδα
Oida

γινώσκω
ginosko

Feed

βόσκω
Bosko

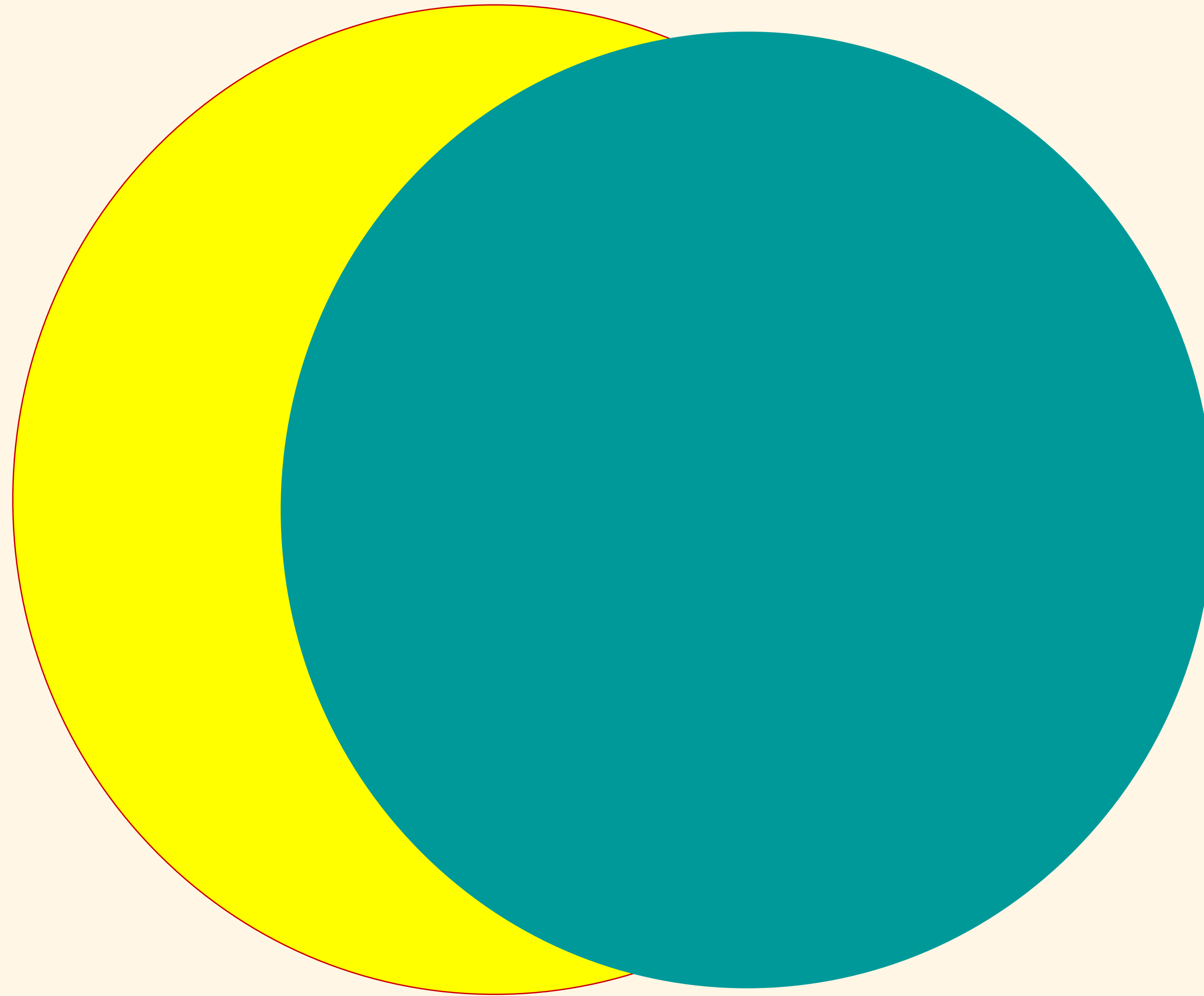
ποιμαίνω
poimaino

Sheep

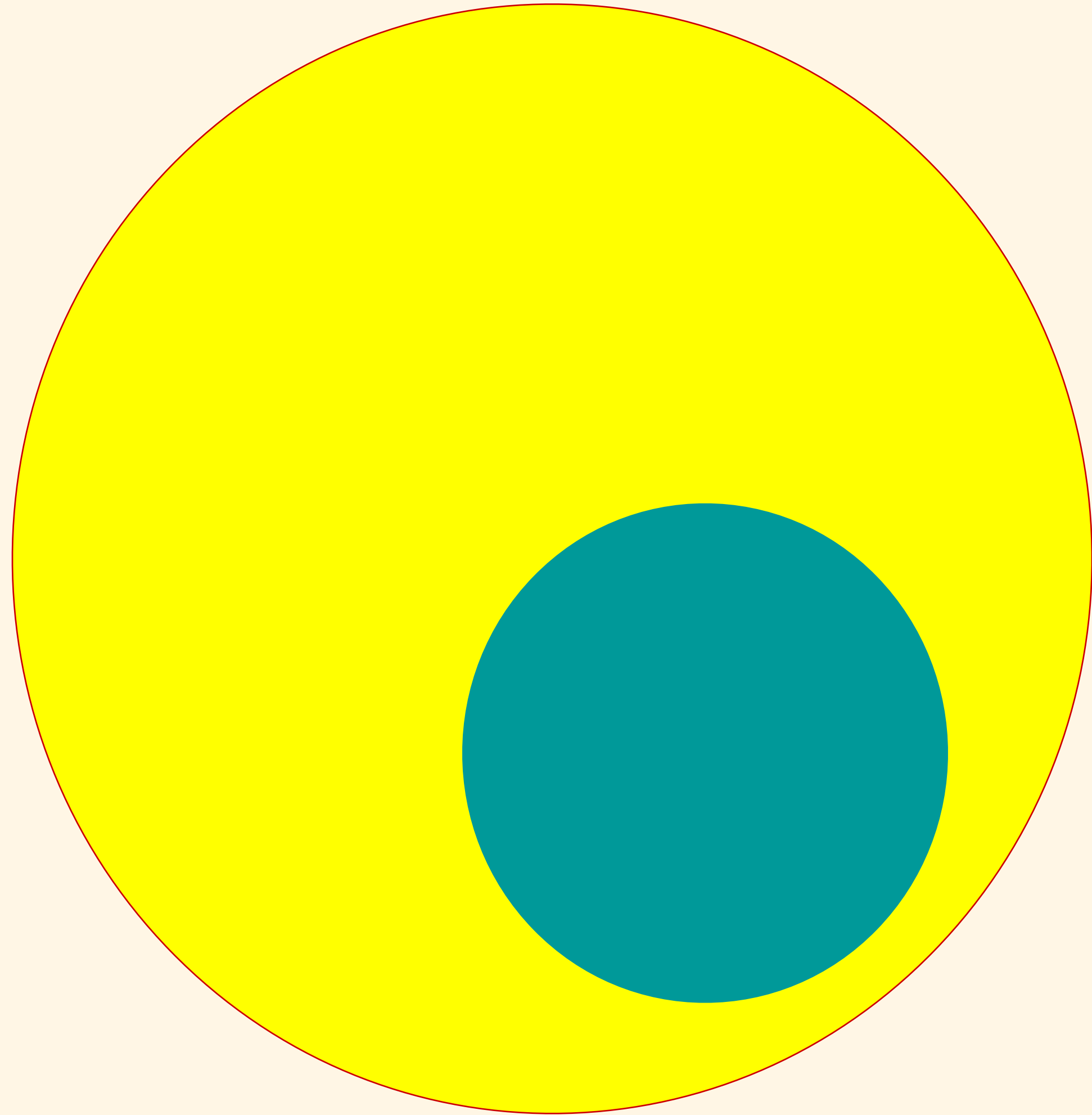
ἀρνία
arnia

πρόβατα
probata

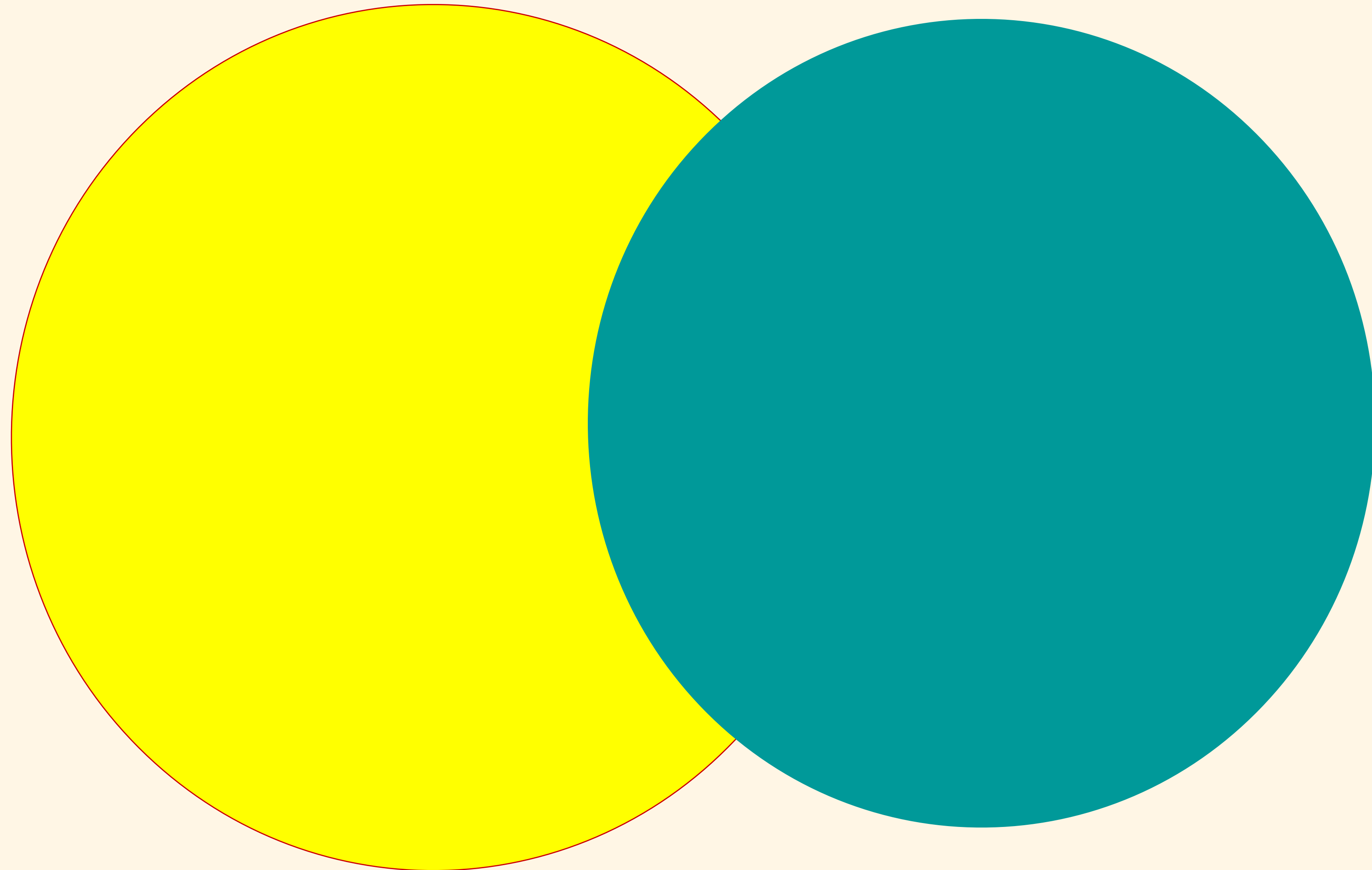
Synonyms: Words with Overlapping Meanings



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Sheep

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John 21:15, “So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?’



He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Feed My lambs.’ ”

Expanded verse 15:

**“ ‘Simon, do you love [*agape*] Me more than these others?’
[Have you learned the lesson of humility yet?]**

**“He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, You know from Your omniscience
that I now have an intimate, intense love for You’ [now that I
have been forgiven and understand what grace is all about!]**

“Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my little lambs’!”

Expanded verse 15:

“Jesus said to him, ‘Feed My little lambs!’ ”

The distinction, notwithstanding, is very far from fanciful. βόσκω [*bosko*], the Latin ‘*pascere*,’ is simply ‘to feed:’ but ποιμαίνω [*poimainō*] involves much more; the whole office of the shepherd, the guiding, guarding, folding of the flock, as well as the finding of nourishment for it.

~Trench, *Synonyms of the New Testament*

Expanded verse 15:

**“Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my little lambs’ [ἀρνίον *arnion*]
[the spiritually young]!”**

John 21:16, “He said to him again a second time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love Me?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Shepherd My sheep.’ ”



Paraphrase verse 16:

“He said to him again a second time: ‘Simon son of John, do you love [*agape*] for Me?’

“Peter said to Jesus: ‘Yes, Lord You know from Your omniscience that I have an intense intimate love for You.’

“Jesus said to him: ‘Lead my sheep through the teaching of doctrine.’ ”

“sheep” *probata*, focuses on all ages, perhaps with a hint of their defenselessness

John 21:17, “He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love Me?’ Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ And he said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend My sheep.’ ”

Paraphrase verse 17

“Jesus said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you really have this intimate, intense love for Me?’ ”

Peter is grieved because He said to him the third time: ‘Do you love [*phileo*] Me?’

“And Peter replied, ‘Lord, you know all things (*oida* indicates omniscience). You know (*ginosko*, from experience) You have seen with Your own eyes my response to Your forgiveness and the change in me because of the resurrection, You have this experiential knowledge of my intense love for You.’ ”

“ ‘Peter, feed [*Boske*] all My sheep [*probata*].’ ”

2 Peter 3:18, “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.”