

A co-worker recently won a contest on the radio... being the first caller in a contest to call the station with the correct answer to a question. She won some wonderful prizes consisting of a dozen red roses, dinner for two at a local restaurant, a gift card to for chocolates and more. This brought to mind my grandmother in years gone by... she would watch/listen to the “Dialing for Dollars” movie every weekday morning on a local TV channel. During the movie, at commercial breaks, they would call random numbers in the phone book and if the caller could tell them the amount of the money they were giving away, they would win that amount. If the person called could not give them the correct amount they would add more money to the “pot” and continue their game. My grandmother would listen faithfully, with her little pad of paper and pencil beside her phone listing the current dollar amount to be given away. Sadly, my grandmother never got that call... but this story speaks highly of her faithfulness...

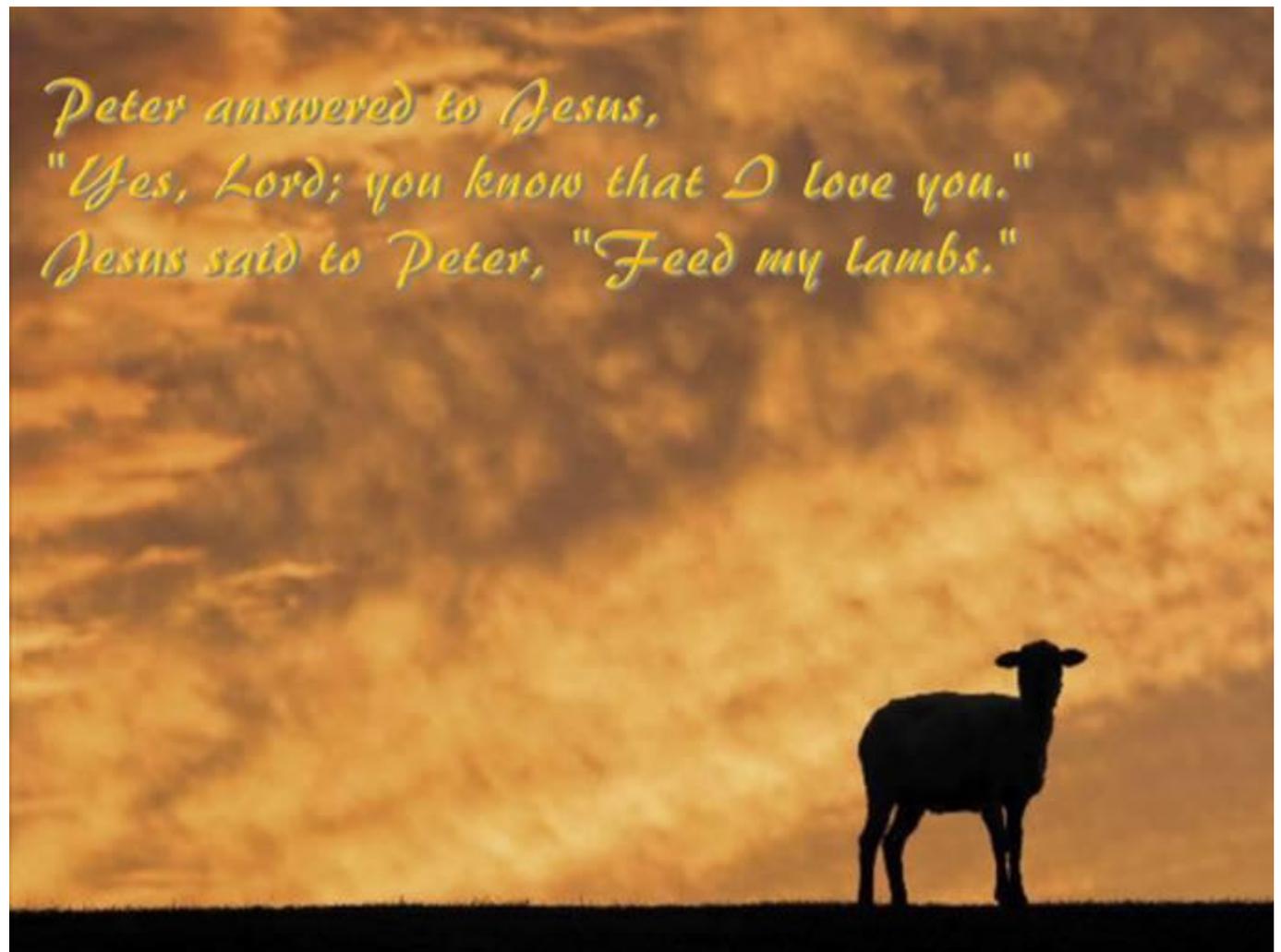
Many people today are faithful... when it suits them to be... not as God desires us to be, but when it fits into their lives... their schedule... God desires to give us the “wonderful gifts” that He has in store for us... beauty as you find in flowers... provisions such as the “manna” given in the wilderness to the Israelites... and even joy that brings a smile to our lips and laughter to our voices... But we must be faithful.... Not just on Sunday mornings... not just at Christmas and Easter... but all the time... Just as Jesus told Peter, as recorded in John 21:15-17, “Feed my lambs... Tend my sheep...Feed my sheep” our love and faithfulness to God must be such that we “love our neighbor as ourselves” (Matthew 19:19, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:27) ... Love God... love your neighbor.... Faithfulness to God and love above all are the greatest commandments... not just when you feel like it.... Or when it fits into your schedule... as C. S. Lewis said, “Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.”

We are happy to report that Mark’s spirits are good, and while he still experiences some pain, it is not as bad as the first few days. He returns to the doctor tomorrow and will know more about what his future holds for his recovery and therapy. He had hoped to return and worship with you on Sunday, but due to the extent of the repairs to his shoulder that they had to do he will probably not be able to join you on Sunday (03-04-18). We look forward to hearing the Rev. Eddie Weathers speak on Sunday. Rev. Weathers serves on

our Conference staff as the Minister for Church Affairs in our Eastern NC Association.

Please continue to pray for Mark Pickett, Peggy and Troy Johnson, Shirley Perry, Mark Garrison, Frances Morgan, Harvey Sharpe, Louise Walters, Parkie King, Spanky and Mary Newsome, Nancy Thomas, Donna Freeman, Ron Davis, Nancey Simmons.

This Sunday's scripture will come from Hebrews 11:1-8 and Hebrews 12:1-3.



*May peace be yours through Jesus Christ our Lord...*

*Joan*