

What Jesus Didn't Say

A Reading for Youth and Others

by Katie Cook

FIRST READER: Jesus didn't say to Peter, "Do you love me? Then go out and build magnificent structures with arches and columns and gold-leaf frescoes."

ALL: He said, "Feed my sheep."

SECOND READER: He didn't say, "Go and organize institutions in which the leaders will have more power and wealth than anyone else on earth."

ALL: He said, "Feed my sheep."

THIRD READER: He didn't say, "Take the things I've said and done and put them in a book that you will raise up as an object of worship."

ALL: He said, "Feed my sheep."

FIRST READER: He didn't say, "Put my words in red ink and then do everything you can to forget them or discount them."

ALL: He said, "Feed my sheep."

SECOND READER: He didn't say, "Work out a system of belief whereby to exclude and punish anyone who disagrees with you."

ALL: He said, "Feed my sheep."

THIRD READER: He didn't say, "Become as prosperous as you can, dress as sumptuously as you can and show how you are blessed by your possessions."

ALL: He said, "Feed my sheep."

And then he said, "Follow me."

—based on John 21