

## Sunday Morning Message

October 16, 2022

*The Beginning of Christ's Glorification*

*The Gospel According to John*

Text – John 13:21 - 38

Congregational Reading – John 13:31 - 35

Introduction (vs. 18 – 20)

*"I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me." (John 13:18-20)*

We were last in John's Gospel a few weeks back where we examined the account of Jesus washing the disciples' feet in the Upper Room here in chapter thirteen. We continue the story here on the night before the crucifixion right after the Last Supper where we finished up last time. John referenced Jesus' conversation regarding Judas at the end of the last passage, and He will continue the discussion about him here in our text today.

In verse eighteen, Jesus states that the Old Testament prophecy given in psalm 41:9 was about to be fulfilled:

*"Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." (Psalm 41:9)*

We know of course that Jesus was referencing Judas. Judas was about to betray the Lord Jesus, and here Jesus reveals that this is exactly what was prophesied regarding the Messiah back in the Old Testament.

**Practical Note** – Nothing hurts worse than being betrayed by someone who you thought was your friend. David spoke of the betrayal of a friend – possibly Saul or maybe Absalom:

*"For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company." (Psalm 55:12-14)*

In verse nineteen, Jesus states that He knew what Judas was about to do, and He was telling them so that their faith in Him would be strengthened. God knows the beginning from the end. He did not cause Judas to betray Him but He knew that He would:

*"The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born." (Matthew 26:24)*

It is comforting for us to know that God is fully aware of all the painful situations that come our way in life. He must allow them. Of course, we wish He would not allow them, but He does so for a purpose. Had Jesus not allowed Himself to be betrayed, He would not have gone to the Cross, and He not gone to the Cross, our sins would not have been atoned for.

Verse twenty is very interesting. I believe it is ultimately a reference to the Word of God. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit into the world. Jesus' death led to the coming of the Holy Spirit, who gave us the Word of God.

*"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26)*

*"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:" (John 15:26)*

*"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." (John 16:7-11)*

The Father sent the Son into the world, and the Son was going to send the Holy Spirit. Jesus was assuring these Jewish believers that everything that was about to happen was happening according to God's plan, and they could be sure that it was all of God.

## **Transition**

Here is the interesting thing, when we think of Christ's glorification, we often think about His resurrection and ascension, but Jesus states that His glorification began with Judas' betrayal.

## I. The Betrayal of Judas (vs. 21 – 30)

*"When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night."* (John 13:21-30)

### A. Jesus was troubled by the betrayal (v. 21)

This is just conjecture on my part, but I believe there are two reasons why Jesus was troubled (ἐταράχθη from ταραάσσω – tarassō) in spirit. First, he was troubled, or distressed, because it hurt him to think that Judas would betray him. It also hurt him to think that Judas rejection of Him would ultimately lead to His eternal judgment. God is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). He does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11).

The second reason that He was troubled was because he knew what was coming. He knew about the physical torture that He was about to endure. He knew that His disciples were going to scatter and distance themselves from Him. Worst of all, however, was the fact that He knew that His Father was going to pour out His wrath upon Him, and for a short time would forsake Him altogether. On the Cross, Jesus would cry out:

*"And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* (Mark 15:34)

### B. The Disciples were troubled by Jesus' prophecy regarding the betrayal.

John was the only disciple who knew that he was not the betrayer. Simon Peter asks John to ask the Lord who it was. Both Matthew's and Mark's account of this event record that the disciples all asked "Is it I?" which means that they all thought that it was at least

possible for them to betray the Lord. That's a sobering thought. Have you ever wondered that you could someday betray the Lord like Judas did. If you are honest with yourself, you would have to admit that it is at least a possibility because of your flesh. However, the grace of God that saved you, is the same grace that will keep you. This is very humbling.

### **C. Judas was troubled by Satan**

Judas made his choice; he rejected Christ and became the possession of Satan. I believe that this is what happens to many people. They make decisions that reject the revelation of God's will. They move away from the direction of God, and by doing so they go deeper into the realm of Satan where Satan power over them increases. However, there are only two people recorded in the Bible as being personally indwelt by Satan, meaning that Satan possesses them or enters them – Judas and the Antichrist.

### **II. The Beginning of Jesus' Glorification (vs. 31 – 35)**

*"Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:31-35)*

Jesus' glorification did not begin with His resurrection, it began with His betrayal. Sometimes, it is the worst moment of your life that brings about best moment, and without enduring the worst, you cannot possibly get to the best. Jesus had to go through the betrayal and crucifixion to get to the resurrection. You and I must be willing to die if we are going to experience resurrection. We will have to die to our own life, our own desires, for God to live His life through us.

Notice something very important that is attached to this statement regarding Jesus' glorification – His command for the disciples to love one another. If Jesus is going to be glorified here on the earth today, His disciples are going to have to stick together. They are going to have to be unified in purpose and unified in love. Notice, people will know

that we belong to God by the love that we show to one another. "Love is the distinguishing characteristic of discipleship."<sup>1</sup>

*"Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." (1 John 2:7-11)*

*"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous." (1 John 3:10-12)*

*"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ... If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." (1 John 4:7-10, 20-21)*

Jesus emphasized love because these disciples were about to go through a period of intense persecution. Most of them would be martyred for their faith. These believers were going to need each other. It is the same for us today. True believers have a stronger connection to their brothers and sisters in Christ than they do to their biological brothers and sisters. As Christians do the will and work of God the world will hate them, but they can receive the love and support that they need from the church – other believers. We need each other – we need to stick together.

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<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur Jr., ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 1612.

Jesus is glorified when His children love one another.

### III. The Boast of Peter (vs. 36 – 38)

*"Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards. Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice."* (John 13:36-38)

Peter asks the Lord about his previous statement from v. 33 – *"whither I go, ye cannot come."* Jesus clarifies, "Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards." The disciples will eventually follow the Lord in both his persecution as well as His glorification. Jesus disciples would all follow Him in His persecution. They would all be put to death for their faith, which is arguably the best argument for the truth of the resurrection. All the disciples proclaimed the truth of the resurrection of Christ up until their death. If it were not true, why would they die for it?

Basically, what Jesus was saying was that these disciples would all have their chance someday to prove their faith in Him. They would all endure persecution, most of them would be martyred, but they would all also share in His resurrection and reward.

Peter wants to jump the gun and boasts that he was ready to die for the Lord right then. However, Peter was boasting of his own human character and strength, which was, at best, very weak. He states that he would die for the Lord. The Lord rebukes him, however, and predicts that in a very short time, Peter would deny even knowing the Lord. We will read all about it when we get to chapter eighteen.

**Practical Point** – You can't fight the Lord's battle in your flesh.

Peter will learn a great lesson through his failure though. The result of Peter's fleshly failure was that he will get very discouraged and will want to quit serving God. But the Lord does not let him quit. *"The gifts and calling of God are without repentance"* (Romans 11:29). After the Holy Spirit comes on the Day of Pentecost, Peter will preach his famous sermon where 3,000 people will get saved, baptized, and added to the church. Peter did later die for the Lord as he once boasted that he would do, but he didn't do it in his strength, he did in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Conclusion**

As we wrap up this chapter, we need to be reminded of something that John continuously reveals to us: Jesus is in control of all that is going on. He is not the unfortunate victim of circumstance. He is orchestrating all these events according to His own plan and purpose.

God has a plan and purpose for your life as well. All you need to do is figure out what God has planned for you and then get in on it.

He had a plan for Peter, which was a little different than Peter's plan.

As we can see from this passage, God's plan will not always be fun. Jesus was about to be crucified because of the betrayal of someone that He loved and trained for three years. That is not fun.

We see also that God's plan for Peter would involve an initial failure. Sometimes we need to fall flat on our faces in the flesh for us to get back up, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, realize the victory for God.

Why will God allow us to fail in the flesh – because if we succeeded in the flesh, it would be our victory, our glory. God can only be glorified if He achieves the victory through us. Sometimes that victory begins with what seems like failure to the world. The enemies of God all cheered at the crucifixion, but they were not so happy three days later when Jesus came up out of the tomb.

Jesus' glorification did not begin with His resurrection or His ascension into Heaven. It began right here with His betrayal and all these horrible events that surrounded the crucifixion.

We will someday share in Christ's glorification, but that day of glory begins with us fulfilling God's will right now – and that will that we need to fulfill today will not always seem all that glorious.

The Sunday of resurrection is coming, but in the meantime, we must be willing to die – die to ourselves, our own will, our own plans, our own desires. We need to be willing to take up His Cross and follow Him to wherever it leads. That is where glorification begins.