

“Now Is the Son of Man Glorified”

John 13:31-38

Reading: Psalm 2

Bethany Baptist Church

October 17, 2021

I think it would be good to be *clear* about the preaching plan, now that we are back in the Gospel of John.

It's pretty simple: Travis and I will *alternate* Sundays in the pulpit.

Of course, there will always be factors that temporarily *change the plan* (babies, holidays, illness), but my goal is to provide Travis with *lots of experience* in *preparing* and *preaching*!

And I know you are already being blessed by his efforts. ☺

...*pray*...

Join me in this morning's text: John 13:31-38.

I've noted before that Chap. 13 *initiates* the second half of John's Gospel, ...

... and in particular Chaps.13-16 document Jesus' *final instructions* to His disciples, before He goes to the *cross*...and the *throne*.

We've already been reminded that Jesus' *loved* His own, to the *uttermost*.

We've seen that Jesus' love is a *shockingly humble, servant love*. A *foot washing* love!

We've listened in as Jesus' *revealed* His betrayer with a *token (morsel)of kindness*.

So now Jesus has *cleansed* their feet and *purged* their fellowship and is ready to *prepare* their hearts.

The *theme* of this morning's text is to **introduce** the *bigger theme* of ch.13-16: *how do we live until we see Jesus*.

Jesus begins to unfold the *life of a disciple* (and there is *more to come*).

1. **Declaration:** the cross is glory (v.31-32).
2. **Warning:** the Savior is going (v.33).
3. **Command:** our badge is love (vv.34-35).
4. **Correction:** the boast is vain, but the day *will* come(vv.36-38).

Declaration: the cross, and its suffering, are glory (read v.31-32).

1. “*Now is the Son of Man glorified...*”

a. *Now...? What just happened? And how does it glorify Jesus?*

b. *Judas just happened! Judas has just been exposed and expelled.*

c. **Read v.30 &31.a.**

d. *Judas’ betrayal is a trigger event on the timeline of Jesus’ passion.*

i. *The betrayal was prophesied in Psalm 41:9, and must come to pass: ‘He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.’*

ii. *The betrayer’s exit initiated the final countdown to the cross, and to its glory.*

2. *Jesus’ initial declaration is all about the glory of the cross. Despite a culture that considered the cross an instrument of shame, Jesus transformed His cross into a scene of glory. The idea of glory is all over Jesus’ declaration:*

a. *The Son of Man is glorified (31) as He guides His mission to its close.*

i. *Jesus’ cross purchases a people for God’s own possession.*

ii. *Jesus’ cross defeats Satan and His dark forces.*

iii. *Jesus’ cross is the death of death!*

iv. *Completing God’s will glorify God’s Son.*

b. *God is gloried in His Son (31).*

i. *Jesus said “I and the Father are one.”*

1. *It is the essential statement of the deity of Christ.*

2. *Whatever glorifies the Son glorifies the Father.*

- c. God glories His Son, in *Himself* (32).
- i. God has been *glorifying* His Son, all along:
 - 1. “*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased!*”
 - ii. God will *glorify* His Son by *raising Him from the grave*.
 - iii. God will *glorify* Jesus by *enthroning Him at His right hand*.
 - 1. **Heb 1:3** – *When [Jesus] had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High, having become much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.*
 - iv. Perhaps we could just say this (Phil 2) – God has bestowed on His *crucified and resurrected Son the name which is above every name!*
- d. God will *glorify Him immediately* (32).
- i. The *traitor* has been turned out into the night.
 - ii. The *troubled disciples* are waiting for Jesus’ instructions.
 - iii. The *cross* – and its *glory* - are hours away.
 - iv. An *eternity of waiting* is practically over!

Warning: the Savior is going away (read v.33).

1. How does Jesus *feel* about you...?
 - a. Is He *irritated* when you are slow? Does He *give up on you* when you disobey...? How about when you follow Peter's example, and *talk back* to Him?
 - b. The very first thing **John** tells us in chapter 13 is that Jesus *loves* His own *to the uttermost* (1). The *depths* of His love could not be *drilled* any *deeper*!
 - c. So (33) we are Jesus' *little children*. This is the only place "*little children*" (Gr. **τεκνια**) appears in all four gospels.
 - i. It is a term of *endearment*.
 - ii. It assures us of Jesus' *love*.
 - iii. And in the greater context of John, to be His "*little children*" assures us of Jesus' love...
 1. ...even when we're kind of *slow*,
 2. ...or even kind of *stubborn*!
2. But *just now* Jesus has a *warning...heart-wrenching* news: "*I am with you a little while longer.*" Which clearly implies: "*I'm going away.*"
 - a. "*We have walked side by side **in this life**, but soon we will walk side by side **in this life** no more.*"
 - b. "*You will seek Me – perhaps in Jerusalem, or even Galilee – but I won't be there...*"
 - c. "*My imminent cross-death-glory **will** change things.*"
3. Jesus *reminds* His friends that He recently said as much to the *Jews* (John 7), at the *Feast of Booths*.

4. So *where* is Jesus going? *Why* can't the disciples go there?
- a. Jesus is going to the *cross*! We will *never* do that, in sense in which Jesus *did* that.
 - i. Only Jesus can *die* to ransom His people.
 - ii. Rm 5:6 - *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*
 - iii. And so the Bible promises: *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved!”*
 - b. But Jesus is *also* going back to *heaven*. And *that* is probably Jesus point here in John 13.
 - i. Jesus will *go*, but the disciples must *stay*. They have a *mission*, too.
 - ii. Yet though these men couldn't follow Him to heaven *now*, we are about to read in just a few more sentences (36.b), ...,
 - iii. ... *all* of them, and all of His *little children* to come, will most assuredly follow Him to heaven *later*!
5. May I take a little detour? *“Little children.”* Only Jesus used this in the *gospels*, and only here – this once.
- a. But they also appear in one letter in the rest of the NT.
 - b. Years after the Upper Room, the Apostle John, *the disciple whom Jesus loved*, used *“little children”* several times in his first epistle.
 - c. It's as if even the least of Jesus' words were *indelibly engraved* on John's *mind* and *heart*.
 - d. Wouldn't it be *something* if we could say the same...?

Get ready John, Peter...Jesus is going to the Father. But you have work to do.

Command: our badge is love.

1. What are the disciples supposed to do when Jesus *goes* and they *stay*?
 - a. There isn't going to be a *messianic uprising* to join.
 - b. Should they head back to the *boats* and *nets*?
 - c. Jesus has *command* – here's what we *do* while we *wait*.

2. **Read vv.34-35.** Did you notice that Jesus called this a ***new commandment***?
 - a. But Jesus has already commanded *mutual love* (Mark 12) and there are similar commands in the **OT** (e.g. Lev 19).
 - b. The answer might be hinted at in Jesus' *vocabulary*, He uses a term that means "*new in type*," rather than another word that means "*new in time*." So this is a *fundamentally new & different* love command.
 - c. But really, the answer is right on the surface of our text: this is not a love derived from the *Law*, but a love modeled on the *love of Christ*.
 - i. V.34 – *even as I have loved you, that you love one another.*
 - ii. What characterizes the *love of Jesus*...?
 1. *Unselfishness. Even self-sacrifice.*
 2. To give-up *everything* for the one you love.

3. Did you notice that Jesus *repeated* His command? → emphatic; important.
 - a. In v.34, He tells us ***twice*** to *love one another*.
 - b. He *says it*, and in the same breath He *says it again!*

4. Did you notice where Jesus *set the bar* on His commandment?
 - a. I've already said it: the standard for our *one another love* is no lower than Jesus Himself.
 - b. *Even as I have loved you.*
5. Did you notice that Jesus promised a *kingdom benefit* from His command?
 - a. **V.35** – By **this** (*one another love*) all men will know you are My disciples.
 - b. *One another love* is the conspicuous badge of discipleship!
 - c. *Love* identifies us as Christians.
 - d. *Love* can open the doors for the Kingdom.
6. And may I say this *again*...did you notice that Jesus *repeated* His commandment?
 - a. I said *twice*, but He actually said it **three times**!
 - b. V.34 – **love one another**...you also **love one another**
 - c. V.35 – *if you have love for one another.*
7. **Reread 34-35. Let's stop and make a couple of applications of Jesus' commandment:**
 - a. There **59** different *one another* commands in the **NT**. That suggests that our *life together* should be almost everything to us!
 - i. Jesus' "*new command*" (Jn 13) is echoed often the **NT**. It appears far more than *any other one another* commandment.
 - ii. You might say to *love one another* is the foundation of all other *one another* instructions.

iii. So you might *also* say we aren't really *church* if we don't really *love*.

iv. I would say that our church family is a very loving family.

1. Yet I would also say with the Apostle Paul, we can always *excel still more*. ☺

b. A *second* thought: One of the *clearest* (most developed) **NT** applications of this command to *love one another, like Jesus*, might be found in **Eph. 5**.

i. Join me in **Eph.5:25 -33**. Men, your wife is your *most important one another*.

ii. **V.25** – How does a husband love His wife? Like Jesus. Sacrificially.

iii. **V.26, 27** – What is the emphasis of Jesus' love? Spiritual health: *sanctifying, cleansing, ... holiness, blamelessness*.

iv. Men, what is a *good picture* of loving your “most important *one another*?”

1. **V.28, 29** - You *nourish* and *cherish* your wife, the way you *cherish* and *nourish* yourself.

2. You don't start your day by *poking yourself in the eye*; don't *cause trouble for your wife*.

Whether in the church or your family, one of the most important principles of living as Jesus' followers is to sacrificially love one another.

But then Jesus has to stop His *teaching* and deal with a *problem*!

1. One commentator suggests that Peter **didn't** *hear a word* of Jesus' new commandment (34,35) because his head was *still stuck* in **v.33**!
 - a. *"I am with you a little while longer...where I am going you cannot come."*
 - b. Peter didn't like that warning *at all*!
 - c. And so for the *third time* in chapter 13, Peter *grabs the spotlight* (glance back at vv.6-10 & v.24). *"Lord, **where** are You going?"*
2. **Follow as I read vv.36-38.**
3. Would you *look carefully* at Jesus' response? There is just a *little more information* than in v.33, and it should have been *good news* for Peter!
 - a. *"Where I go, you cannot follow Me **now**; **but you will follow later.**"*
 - b. There will be a *way*, and there will be a *day*, in which Peter joins Jesus in the *Father's house*.
 - c. Peter will someday *lay down life* and enter into *glory*.
 - d. Jesus *will come again and receive us to Himself*.
 - e. And Peter (you, I) *will dwell in the house of the Lord forever*.

4. But as **Peter** tries to *process all of this* in that Upper Room setting, at the very beginning of this radically *new* and *different* and *bewildering* journey, this is pretty difficult data to *digest*!
 - a. “*Lord, why can I **not** follow You **right now**.*”
 - i. Peter **doesn’t** feel any *hesitation*!
 - ii. He’s just one of those kind of guys: *often erring, never doubting*.
 - b. “*I will **lay down my life** for You!*”
 - i. When you *read* this account in the other gospels, you *learn* that Peter *stirs up* the other disciples, who *also* declare their *willingness to die*.
 - ii. But then when you come to **Matt 26:33**, Peter *throws* his friends *under the bus*! “*Even though **all** may fall away because of You, I will **never** fall away!*” Those other **10** guys at table!
5. As has happened *many times before*, Jesus must *spill the wind* from the *fisherman’s sails*.
 - a. Jesus knows that Peter (*rest*) **aren’t** really ready to die for Him.
 - b. In fact, *this very night*, Peter will deny Jesus *time and time and time* again.
 - i. The *third watch of the night* was called *cock’s crowing*, and was from *midnight* to *3:00 a.m.* That’s when roosters *crow*!
 - ii. So by **3:00 a.m.** boastful Peter will be in the high-priest’s courtyard, *dodging the questions* of soldiers and servants.
 - c. Peter stops talking....

6. But beloved, there **will** be *grace, forgiveness, and restoration* for Peter!
 - a. Jesus *appeared* to Peter on *Resurrection Day* (Luke 24; 1 Cor15).
 - b. Jesus *commissioned* Peter at the *Sea of Galilee* (John 21) – “*Tend My sheep.*”
 - c. And Peter *served* Jesus for the rest of His life. From Jerusalem to Rome. From *Pentecost* to *martyrdom*.
 - d. Peter **did die** for Jesus, *crucified* by Nero **30** years after Jesus’ crucifixion: “*You cannot follow Me now, but you will follow Me later.*”

If the **big idea** for chapter 13-16 is Jesus’ *instructions to His followers* while we *wait for His return*, then we’ve already found **two** crucial directives to take to heart.

1. ***Serve one another.***

- a. **13:14,15** – “*If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.*”

2. ***Love one another.***

- a. “*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*”
- b. Love is *hard*, but our love is **not vain**! “*By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*”

Beloved in the Lord, I have to believe that our world is waiting for a love like ours...for a love like Jesus’!

...pray...