

John 13vs31-35

True Glory

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True Glory

John 13 vs 31-35

These five verses set up chapters 13-17 because they show us what it looks like to live NOW in light of the cross.

It's worth spending a little extra time on such a topic!

We start by reading John ch 13 vs 31-35:

vs 31-35: When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Let's look at v31 in more detail:

v31: When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him."

- **When he had gone out...** Who has left? It's Judas... and he has gone to betray Jesus.
- Now the Son is glorified – why? Because Jesus' hour has come.

Back to v30: ***And it was night.***

- This is one of the bleakest moments in the whole of the Gospel.
- Judas goes out into the darkness – why? To betray Jesus.
- This means that the events of the cross are upon us and are at the forefront of Jesus' mind as he speaks the words of vs 31-32.

Read vs 31-32: When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once."

Let's break this down:

A1) NOW

B1) The Son of Man is glorified

C1) God is glorified in him

C2) If God is glorified in him

B2) God will glorify him

A2) And glorify him AT ONCE

- The Timing
“**Now**” and “**at once**” – this refers to the event of Jesus’ death which is imminent once Judas has gone out into the night.
- The Unity
Both “**The Son of Man**” and “**God**” are working together for one end. “**The Son of Man is glorified**”, and God glorifies him (Jesus the Son) in himself (the Father). There is ABSOLUTE unity of purpose.
- The Purpose
God is glorified in him...

Therefore ... what have we learnt is happening at the cross?

- Both the Son and the Father will be glorified
v 31: “**Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.**”
- This is a remarkable claim –God’s glory is to be revealed even as Jesus is nailed to the cross.
- Jesus is nailed to the cross as “**The Son of Man**”
- ...And that the GLORY of the Son of Man comes THROUGH his death on the cross!!

Remember the prophecy about the ‘Son of Man’ given in Daniel ch 7:

Daniel ch 7 v 14: *And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*

Let's go back to Jesus' words to his disciples in John ch 13 v 33:

v 33: *“Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’”*

In these verses Jesus reminds his disciples that:

- He is going to his Father.
- They will be unable to follow immediately.
- They will be left to live out their discipleship when he is gone.

It leaves us with the question:

- How, then, are they to live once he is gone?

Jesus goes on to answer the question immediately!

Read vs 34-35: *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

The command in v34 is directly comparable with a command given in the Old Testament book of Leviticus, ch 19 v 18: **“You shall love your neighbour as yourself”**

But Jesus describes his command as **“a new commandment”**

Do you see what Jesus has added?

- What is new about his commandment?

“..just as I have loved you”

So how has Jesus loved us?

- By giving his life for us at the cross.

So then, these verses tell us HOW we are to live once Jesus has **“gone”** to his Father. We are to **“love one another”** just as Jesus loved us at the cross.

Notice who we are to love according to v34: **“love one another”**

Who is Jesus talking about? Who is he with as he says these words?

- The disciples... and therefore he is referring to believers.

What will be achieved by believers in Jesus loving one another?

- v 35: “...***all people will know that you are my disciples...***”

As believers live out lives of self-sacrificial love for one another they will RADIATE Jesus’ love to the world.

As Christians love one another, the world should be able to “look on” and see the love of Jesus in action.

But at this point we need to ask: how do vs 34-35 relate to vs 31-32?

- Just as God is glorified through the sacrificial love of Jesus dying on the cross... so our love for one another - modelled on the cross - makes God known to the world.

So, once Jesus has gone to his Father - where will people see the glory of God?

- In God’s people... living lives shaped by the cross, that point to the cross

Thinking it through...

Let’s think first about vs 31-32:

Read vs 31-32: *When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.*

THE GLORY OF GOD

How can it possibly be that Jesus’ humble, shameful, weak and apparently tragic death on the cross could be THE moment of God’s GLORY?!

At the cross we see:

- The selfless love of Jesus - carrying God’s wrath at OUR sin
- The perfect love of God - giving his only Son so that we might not perish
- The justice of God - insisting that sin be punished
- The obedience of Jesus - willingly submitting himself for God’s glory
- The faithfulness of God - to his people and his promises
- The cross exhibits most powerfully the loving, faithful, just, selfless, obedient, pure, strong, kindness of God!!

NOW... GOD IS GLORIFIED!!

Let's think secondly about vs 34-35:

Read vs 34-35: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

"A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU"

So how am I to love other Christian believers?

- In the same manner as Jesus loved us:
v34: **"Just as I (Jesus) have loved you"**

And what did he do?

- He left heaven – took on human restrictions
- He made himself NOTHING – becoming poor even though he was truly rich beyond our possible understanding
- He carried God's judgement at our sin

So how can a Christian show this love?

- By serving one another:
 - Even other people they don't find easy to love
 - Even when it is costly
 - Even when it takes time
 - Even when it leads to death

Let's pause and explore this more. As we do so, remember that Jesus is speaking to his followers here...

If you are someone who has decided to follow Jesus, fill in the gaps below with examples you can think of for what it will look like to obey his command!

- At work in the office?.....
 - With other Christians in the City (at or near where you work)?
 - At home with the family?
 - At home with a church?.....
-
- What obstacles can you think of that might prevent us from loving like this?
 - Can you think of examples of what this might look like for you?

Read v 34: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

How has Jesus loved me?

- By dying on the cross for ME!

When did Jesus love me?

- Long ago - before I even began to think of him!!

Who took the initiative and made the first move?

- JESUS!

What had I done to make myself “lovable”?

- NOTHING!!

So then – Jesus’ love for us on the cross is “the engine” that makes our love for each other possible.

- The more I meditate on his love for me, the more I will be enabled to love!

What is the difference with this and what a secular marriage counsellor might say to us?

- “Look back to what you once had”
- “Rekindle the good”
- “Spend time together”

In other words: “look back... look within yourself... look for the good and loving within the other person”

In contrast – what does Jesus say? “LOOK AT ME”

- Active and pro-active sacrifice...

It’s a totally vertical line to Jesus before - we look horizontally at each other!

As we finish

Remember John's aim in writing this gospel:

John 20 vs 30-31: Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This study has shown that a key part of other people believing Jesus and having eternal life comes through them seeing the life of Jesus lived out by his disciples in church.

- What practical ways will this study make a difference to your life this week?
- Why is meeting and loving other Christians so important?
 - Because doing this displays the glory of God

Read vs 31-32: When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.

How might you begin to do this?

- Have you thought about finding a good church where the words of Jesus are taught?

What next...?

Jesus' dramatic statement raises a number of questions for his disciples...

John 13 vs 31-35

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