

**34- The Mystery of His Departing John 13:31-38**

Jesus had just dropped what we might consider a bombshell. One of them was going to betray Him. Judas had departed but was not suspected by the other eleven as the betrayer. In the context of our passage today He will drop another bomb to Peter personally. We will look at this in a future sermon in this series. We also see within our text what is often called the new commandment. We will likewise address this later in this series. Having thrown out two possible topics for this portion of Scripture, I want us to focus on what I have titled *The Mystery of His Departing*.

**I- Glorify:**

*Joh 13:31 Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him.*

There are three or four different glory here. Jesus, remember is not yet dead but speaks as if it had already been accomplished.

The glory of the cross is which He speaks of clearly here. We see that by simply asking how did Jesus bring the most glory to the Father and thusly God glorifying Jesus. He lived a perfect sinless life which brought glory to the Father. He spoke of doing only what the Father showed Him to do thus bringing glory to God. Still the most glory that Jesus brought was that He endured the cross, the shame of sin and glorified God by His sacrifice.

The text says that all this took place after Judas had gone out. Jesus knew the moment was at hand and in a short time He would be crucified.

We, as humans, look at the cross and the suffering of Christ and find it hard to see the glory of it. However it was here that His greatest obedience lead to His greatest glory. It will help us with to hear the meaning of glorify.

*Thayer's Greek Definitions* give us the following:

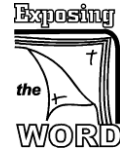
- 1) to think, suppose, be of opinion
- 2) to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate
- 3) to honour, do honour to, hold in honour
- 4) to make glorious, adorn with lustre, clothe with splendour
  - 4a) to impart glory to something, render it excellent
  - 4b) to make renowned, render illustrious
  - 4b1) to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged

*Barnes Notes* says, "The last deed is done that was necessary to secure the death of the Son of man, the glory that shall result to him from that death, the wonderful success of the gospel, the exaltation of the Messiah, and the public and striking attestation of God to him in the view of the universe."

We might ask how we might glorify God. We do with our lives given as Paul said as a holy sacrifice to Him. We also do it when we worship Him by giving the glory due to Him.

**II- Another Warning of Departure:**

One of the things that I have always been amused about is how that with Jesus continually telling them that He was going to die and leave them they did not hear. He gives them another warning her. *John 13:33 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.*

He had told the Jews this earlier in *Joh 7:33-34 Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me. 34 Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.*

*Joh 8:21 Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.*

Why did they not hear? It points out a fact that we all must understand as we attempt to hear from God. They heard what they wanted to hear. We often hear what we want to hear, or we read over a verse with a preconceived idea or supposed understanding of it without listening. Jesus had told them many times in the past that He was going to be going away but it had remained a mystery.

Another reason, and perhaps a better one, is that they did not understand it because they were not seeing spiritually at the time only physically. The Spirit of God must enlighten the hearts of men in order for us to understand the things of God.

Still, here we are the night of His betrayal. The night of the mock trials with the crucifixion looming in a matter of hours and His departing was still a mystery to them.

### III- The New Commandment:

We will spend a entire session on this in the near future when we get to chapter 15. Allow me only to make a couple of comments and move along.

*John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one*

*another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Remember these men were the ones jockeying for positions in the kingdom that would never materialize. Jesus is telling them that after He is gone they will have to stick together in a bond of love to show the world His message.

### IV- Peter's Question:

*John 13:36 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou?*

Peter asks Him now finally where it is He is going. It may seem that the light may be coming on of understanding. Well, hold on a minute before we believe that. Peter is assuming that He was going to travel someplace on earth. Perhaps to some foreign country.

Notice the answer Peter receives....*Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.*

I like the word here NOW. He is saying Peter you cannot follow me now but will later. Jesus told Peter in the last of the Gospel of John *John 21:18-19 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not. 19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God...*

But for now Peter could not go. Still Peter did not understand that Christ was talking about dying.

*John 13:37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.*



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Peter makes a statement that would turn out to be rash and pretentious. He claimed he would die follow Jesus it that is what it took to follow Him.

The ever loving Savior, knowing what the night would bring for Him and for His disciples speak again to Peter and tells of His great betrayal.

***John 13:38 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.***

Christ knew the heart of Judas who would betray Him and also the heart of Peter who would deny Him.

## **V- The Comforting Words:**

It was not only Peter who did not understand but all of the disciples. Judas is now working his deed of betrayal while they spoke. Jesus, wishing to give them some words of comfort speaks again.

***John 14:1-5 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.***

Jesus tells them that they know where He is going and the way to join Him. However this remains a mystery to them as we see in ***John 4:5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?***

We will pick up the next time with Jesus' declaration of Him being the Way, the Truth and the Life.

## **VI- Where Did He Go?**

He went to the cross to die. He went to the grave to rise. He went to heaven to come again. He will some come again. Have you make preparations for that to occur? Have you accepted Him as Messiah or is it all still a mystery to you? May the God of the Universe allow you to see!!!