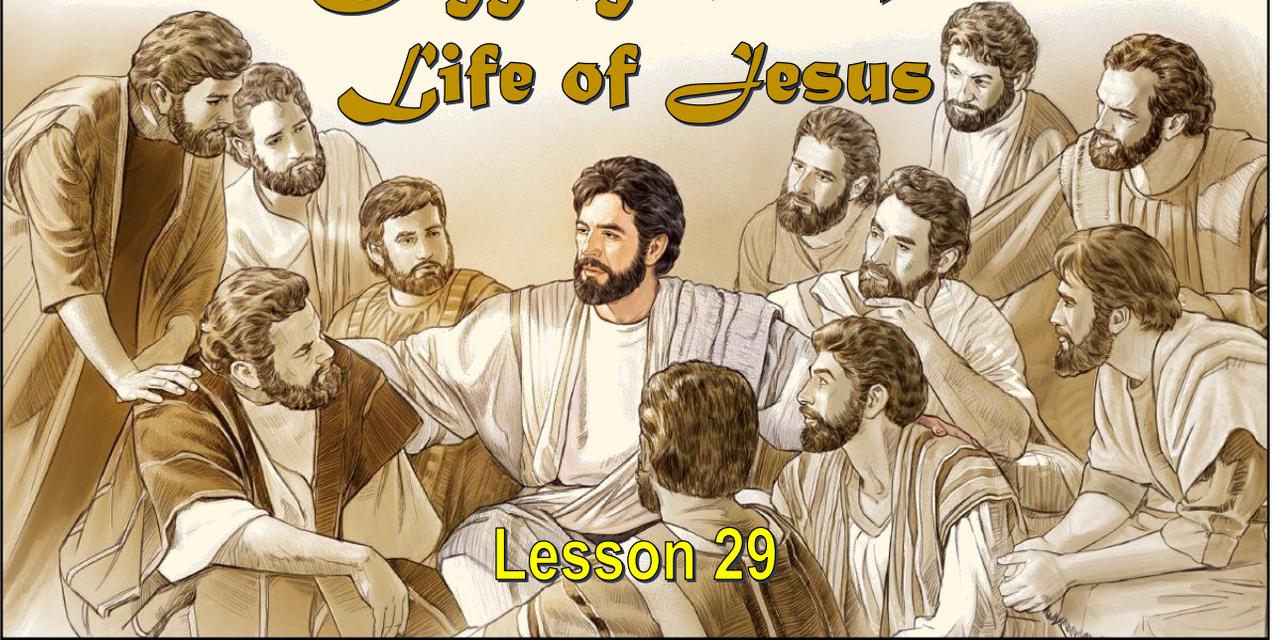


# Digging into the Life of Jesus



## Lesson 29



## Overview

4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### 1. Insights Corner

### 2. Review of

26 *Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.*



Are you willing to be available?  
God will use anyone who is willing to be used, regardless of whether or not they or others think they are qualified.



The Cross will do away with the penalty of our sin, but it is more powerful than a legal decree.

- It actually cleanses us of sin.
- It removes guilt and transforms lives.

**GUILT**

It is possible to harden your heart to the place where you *cannot* believe. Therefore we must believe while there is light.

Sometimes people believe what they want to believe, in spite of contrary evidence.

That's their belief system at work  
– they see what they want to see, rather than what is.

**Belief System**

### 3. Jesus Washes the feet of the Disciples, Reveals Betrayal and Teaches a New Commandment (John 13)

### 4. Jesus Goes and Prepare a Place for us (John 14:1-14)

## **“INSIGHTS” CORNER**



- 1. How do you love God?**
- 2. How would you characterize your relationship with God (in other words, if a friend asked you to describe what it's like to be in a relationship with God, how would you respond?)**

26 **Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.**



**Are you willing to be available?**

God will use anyone who is willing to be used, regardless of whether or not they or others think they are qualified.

**Our natural tendency is to give ourselves permission to**

- **take the path of least resistance,**
- **avoid taking responsibilities,**
- **give excuses**

- **“It’s just too hard”**
- **“I’m not qualified enough”**
- **“I’ve important matters to attend to”**
- **“I don’t have time”**
- **“Wait till I retire”**
- **“I have too many other things to do”**

**Available But  
Afraid to  
Launch Out?**

**“If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?”**

**Exodus 3:13**

**God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:14)**

**I AM** is everything the human heart longs for and needs.

There is a word of personal encouragement in the great and unfinished name **"I AM"...**

According to His name, He is the lifeblood and substance of whatever you need at the moment.

**"I am whatever you need whenever you need it."**

He is the all-sufficient God for every crisis and circumstance!

# **I AM Your**

...Courage

...Comfort

...Hope

...Help

...Provision

...Peace

...Salvation

...Strength

...Defender

...Deliverer

...Forgiveness

...Future

# I AM's of Jesus

- I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)
- I am the Light of the World (John 8:12)
- I am the Door (John 10:9)
- I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)
- I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
- I am the Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)
- I am the Vine (John 15:1,5)

## Common Pitiful I Am's of People:

I am

...hopeless ...useless

...foolish ...fearful

...unlucky ...ugly

...pessimistic ...unwanted

...a failure ...a loser

Then Moses answered, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘**The Lord did not appear to you.**’”

**Exodus 4:1**



But Moses said to the Lord, “**Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.**”

**Exodus 4:10**

### **Exodus 4:11-13**

Then the Lord said to him, “**Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.**”

But he said, “**Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.**”

## The Lord's Response?

Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses...

Exodus 4:14



The Cross will do away with the penalty of our sin, but it is more powerful than a legal decree.

- It actually cleanses us of sin.
- It removes guilt and transforms lives.

**Feel Unforgiven...**



**Guilt can get us stuck in self-hatred and self-contempt.**

**Self-hatred keeps all wounds alive and makes us feeling guilty much of the time.**

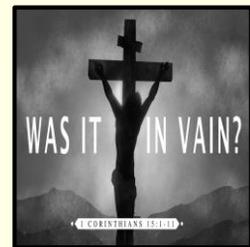
Some think that by feeling guilty, they're repairing their wrong doing. They are not!

They're preventing themselves from embracing God's forgiveness that would allow them to move forward.



When God declares forgiveness, we ourselves must learn to stop wallowing in our guilt. We must learn to accept God's promise that we are forgiven; that we are holy and blameless in his sight; that the only right way of proceeding is increasingly to see ourselves in that light.

Otherwise the sacrifice of Christ begins to count for nothing since it is not allowed to be powerful enough to cleanse and heal our brokenness.



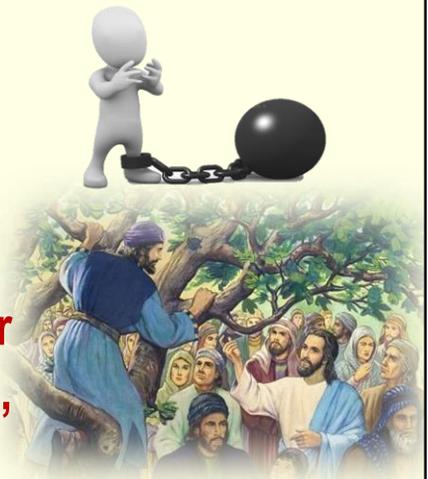
Guilt and shame are incredibly heavy burdens to bear.

Our efforts to compensate would never be enough to free ourselves

While we need to make restitution for offenses, but that's for restoration, not cleansing.

Only Christ's work on the cross and His perfect sacrifice can bear the full weight of our burden.

We are now free!



**Remember:** There is incredible and staggering power in the name of Jesus!



His name is higher, mightier, holier than any other name. It is the only name that will ultimately command obedience from all people and all powers:

“so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11).

It is possible to harden your heart to the place where you *cannot* believe. Therefore we must believe while there is light.

Sometimes people believe what they want to believe, in spite of contrary evidence.

That's their belief system at work

– they see what they want to see, rather than what is.

**Belief  
System**

**Belief systems are often based on Assumptions.**

To make an assumption is to presume or believe something to be true with-

out first asking questions to verify if it really is.

Many use their assumptions as their frame of reference and defensive filters to judge situations, people, policies, doctrines, and even other belief systems.

So they hear things, see things, as they expect to see them, and not as they truly, objectively are.

**What about you? Are you open to examine your own assumptions and theological framework?**

Our theological framework is our conceptualization of God's involvement in the world and how we see the relationship between ourselves and God's call for how we should live in the world.



### **Caution:**

As soon as we think we've God figured out and that He fits nicely in the box we've created for Him, we've ceased to fear and revere Him as He is.



We can become legalistic, dogmatic and self-righteous like the Pharisees.

Jesus did not die so that we could have a dogmatic and pretentious belief system – but rather a life-giving relationship with our Father.

## Continuation from Last Week's Lesson...



6-7 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”

**Peter would later understand the deeper meaning.**

**It Finally  
Sunk In!**

Later he exhorted his readers to clothe themselves with humility (1 Peter 5:5).

It is possible that as he was writing these words his mind flashed back to that evening's events.

**Learning** is meant to lead to a redemptive insight into our human condition and motivate us to change and adopt godly values.



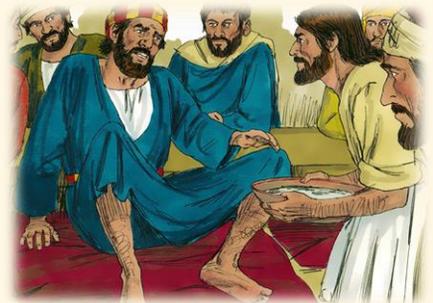
Every day we ought to discover something – to learn, relearn or even unlearn.

We should be “lifelong learners” so that we become mirrors of the character of Christ, reflecting His glory, as we walk in that character with love and care.

**We must grow beyond the infancy phase of salvation!**

8a Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.”

“This was an immoderate modesty, a proud humility.” (Trapp)



Peter was rank-conscious. Jesus was highest in rank. So He should not do it.

To Peter (and the rest of the apostles), this was a task for the lowliest to do. No one else would do it, so it was better to leave it undone than to have Jesus do it.

**Beware!** Many begin their ministry with a clear understanding of their roles.

But along the way they somehow change, lose direction, shift focus and desire “higher” roles than they were assigned.

And so they try to grab the limelight and present themselves as the heroes.

Ambitions, privileges, pride, vain glory and accolades – all these conspire, at times, to derail us from our God-given tasks and roles.



**8b** Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.”

Peter had to accept this from Jesus. He became a pattern for us.

But we must be willing to release or renounce our unhealthy patterns first.

If we do not accept the humble service of Jesus to cleanse us, we have no part with Him.



**9 Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”**

- Did he truly recognise the Lordship of Christ?
- Was He sincere? Was there a subtle motive to appear more righteous than the other disciples?

**He still missed the point!!!**

**Peter had a terrible night!**

- Here Jesus corrected him.
- Peter later brags that he would lay down his life for Jesus. Jesus then predicts his denial – which he later did – three times!
- At the garden of Gethsemane He will be singled out by Jesus for sleeping when he should be praying.
- Still later he will be rebuked by Jesus for drawing his sword.



**10 Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.”**

**When one had bathed and then walked to another’s house, he only needed his feet washed.**

**The disciples did not need a radical new cleansing, but rather a daily cleansing from the contaminating effects of sin.**

**11 For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”**

**Eleven of them are clean but the twelfth is a traitor. No external washing can purify a hypocrite or a traitor, therefore Judas still remained unclean.**

**Judas Iscariot is known as the betrayer.**

**What about you? What are you known as?**

**How do you hope Jesus would describe you? How close or far are you from that description?**

**12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you?”**

**When the cross was only a few hours away, the disciples were still arguing about matters of pride.**

**Usually when there was no servant present to wash the guests’ feet, the first one or two to arrive would perform the ceremony for the rest of the guests.**

**But here the first arrivals were not interested. They were fighting for positions. No one wanted the towel!**

**Luke 22:24-30 And then a dispute arose among them as to who should be considered the most important.**

**But Jesus said to them, “Among the heathen it is their kings who lord it over them, and their rulers are given the title of ‘benefactors.’ But it must not be so with you!**

**Your greatest man must become like a junior and your leader must be a servant.**

Jesus' act was a powerful lesson in servanthood, and they were missing the point!

Being a servant does not start with what you do. That is not the starting point.

The starting point has to do with the attitude of the heart -- why you do it.



13-14 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

Followers of Christ must be people of the towel. To be a servant we must be willing to change our identifications and attachments. Identity is grounded in our attachments. We are what we most identify with.

It is easier sometimes to humble ourselves and wash the feet of friends. But what about those we dislike?

## **John 13:15-20**

### **A Servant is Not greater Than His Master**

- 15. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.**
- 16. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.**
- 17. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.**
- 18. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.'**

- 19. I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.**
- 20. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”**

**15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.**

**Does Jesus expect us to literally wash another person's feet?**

**No, He is not commanding the disciples to do WHAT He did; but He has given them AN EXAMPLE in order that they, of their own accord, may do as He has done – serve others in humility!**

## **Is Footwashing a Required Church Practice?**

- 1. It is not stated in any other Bible passage that footwashing is to be part of a church practice or ritual.**
- 2. There are passages in both the OT and NT that mentioned footwashing, but the practice was simply an act of hospitality done by individuals in a private way (e.g. 1 Timothy 5:10).**

**It is true that Jesus at this time instituted the Lord's Supper.**

**But we have other Scriptures that confirmed the celebration of the Lord's Supper in their worship (Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 11:17ff). Not with footwashing.**

**In today's practice, people know ahead of time when their feet will be washed. Most make sure they are clean!**

**HUMILITY**, like gratitude, comes from a heart that has experienced the mercy of God.



It is the acceptance of who we are – the grace to joyfully embrace our own identity, role, circumstances and calling rather than to live by pretence.

It teaches us not to envy others.

It frees us to gladly celebrate their gifts, blessings and abilities.

**Why is lack of humility such a problem?**

Because we're too often preoccupied with ourselves and our belief that we're number 1 in so many areas.

With this arrogant mindset, we end up making life more difficult for others, and ultimately for ourselves!

**Dethronement Crisis**

**16-17 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.**

**“sent” = Jesus was constantly conscious of being commissioned by the Father. Jesus included His disciples in the commission and also included them in the action of servanthood.**

**And for those who would be willing to take this role on themselves, Jesus said they would be blessed.**

### **BLESSINGS:**

**God wants to bless us so that we can be a blessing to others.**

**He does not bless us so that we can become self-indulgent or egocentric, but rather so that we can be more fruitful and effective for Him in our lives.**

**Everyone enjoys being blessed. But remember these things must not become ends in themselves, and Jesus becomes the means to those ends.**

The end goal of our life as Christ followers is to be transformed to His image and to live the life He has purposed for us, not to use God to give us what we want.

To be transformed, we must gaze at Christ and live out His teachings. If we want to see heavenly realities, we must take our eyes off of earthly ones.

Be willing to change our perspective about blessings and exchange our old visions for new ones.

18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' (Psalm 41:9)

There is no implication in this -- that Jesus chose Judas for the purpose of the betrayal.

Judas was had already decided in his heart to betray. God did not force nor manipulate him to so act. God knew he would be a betrayer from the beginning. The prophecy was proof of His foreknowledge.

**19-20 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”**

**Jesus was not merely asking for personal loyalty but for belief that He was the One sent by God (“I am He”).**

**He wanted the disciples to commit themselves to His claims before the events would seemingly invalidate them.**

**He said that accepting the messenger whom He sent was equivalent to receiving Him and that receiving Him involved also receiving God.**

**It implies a close connection between the disciple and the master and an even closer connection between Jesus and God.**

## **John 13:21-30**

### **One of You Will Betray Me**



- 21. After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”**
- 22. The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke.**
- 23. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side,**
- 24. so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.**

- 25. So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?”**
- 26. Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.**
- 27. Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”**

- 28. Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.**
- 29. Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor.**
- 30. So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.**

## John 13:21-30 : One of You Will Betray Me

21 After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."



A shocking announcement! Each disciple seems to have found some sense of evil in his own heart; and they began to question, "Is it I?" (Mark 14:19).

Jesus was not surprised that Judas would betray Him.

He had announced it to them at least a year earlier (6:70). Still, it weighed heavily on his mind (13:18).

"Troubled" is the same verb used of Jesus' agitation at the grave of Lazarus (11:33).

As "the hour" approached, the darkness and sadness of the betrayal Jesus anticipated became known.

His troubled spirit here later gave way to His confidence that evil would be defeated:

**“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33b).**

Trusting God in our darkness is learning to know God beyond images and concepts. It is a spiritual knowing, not merely an intellectual knowing.

It is coming to know Christ as the light that burns darkly but with fierce intensity — a light that is best seen in the darkness.

**22-24 The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.**

**Whom Jesus loved:** John referred to himself 4 times

- Here in the upper room (13:23)
- At the cross of Jesus (19:26)
- At the empty tomb (20:2)
- With the risen Jesus at the Sea of Galilee (21:20)

**It is horrible enough to sin against your beloved Master, to be unfaithful in fulfilling your duties to Him.**

**But to betray Him and take sides with His enemies is unimaginable.**

There are few things more detested than the act of betraying one's own friends, but how much greater when one betrays the very Son of God!



**25-26 So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.**

**As soon as this was done, Judas knew that his identity was known to all but pretended that it was not true, saying, “Is it I?”**



**Such a denial is the refusal to accept responsibility and repent. It is an extreme form of self-protection and defence mechanism.**



**Instead of keeping him safe, that pretence imprisoned him further and immediately restricted his choices, and impeded any chances of repentance.**

**One cannot merely wish for better conditions or better time to repent. It must be done immediately. The longer one waits, the more difficult it gets!**

**For the host to select a tidbit from the main dish and give it to a guest would be a mark of courtesy and respect.**

**On seeing this, the disciples might initially conclude that Jesus regarded Judas as a friend he had confidence in.**

**Jesus told him that it was indeed he (Matthew 26:25), and commanded him to “do quickly” (John 13:27).**

**27 Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”**

**Do Quickly:** Jesus knew Judas was now past any appeal to conscience or heart. So it was best to get it done with.

“Satan could not have entered into him had he not granted him admission. Had he been willing to say ‘No’ to the adversary, all of his Master’s intercessory power was available to him there and then to strengthen him.” (Bruce)

**When men do evil, it is because they give in to the influence of Satan, not because God forces them to do evil or predestines them to do so.**

**Judas acted as he did because he gave in to the influence of Satan, not of God.**

**But Judas had the power not to allow Satan into his life.**

**It was by his own evil choice that he gave in to Satan.**

**28-29 Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor.**

**No One Knew:** If they had known they would have stopped Judas.

They believed Judas had business to do on behalf of the group, either to pay the expenses for the dinner or to give something to the poor.

### **HIDING:**

Judas was able to cover his footsteps and hide his intentions and activities.

### **Warning:**

Sometimes, we can get so accustomed to being in hiding – or dodging and camouflaging – that we forget what it means to live life in the open!



## **1 Timothy 6:6-10**

- 6. But godliness with contentment is great gain,**
- 7. for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.**
- 8. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.**
- 9. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.**

**10. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.**

## How Do You Know When You Love Money More Than You Love God?



When you have to choose between money and God, and money wins!

Jesus said you know what you love most by what you invest in (Matthew 6:19-21).

## When Should We Refuse Financial Gain?

When it would damage the reputation of the kingdom.

We can tell what our true first love is by the value decisions we make daily and throughout our lives.

We will have a much better appreciation of the true wealth in our lives when we reflect on all the things God has provided us: our health, loving relationships, unexpected experiences, provisions, homes, church, vocation etc.

It's so easy to be seduced by entitlement and expectations, to spend our lives searching and researching for bigger, better, greater, upgrades, more, when we often have just what we need.

**Learn contentment. Treat upgrades and improvements as bonuses.**



*Contentment*

Contentment is our awareness and mindfulness of all that is already here. Dissatisfaction and insatiable desires impede our ability to experience contentment and creates tension.

### **Philippians 4:11-12**

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

**30 So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.**

**It certainly was the midnight of Judas' soul. He had chosen his own place of darkness and doom.**

**As he left the Upper Room that night, do you think he paused and looked longingly back at the light?**

**Wonder if he thought about turning back. How alone he was!**

**It was already night, so the next several chapters in John's account, up till the day of His death, all occurred on the night before He was slain.**

**John gives us far more information than do the other writers about the things Jesus said on that final night.**

# **John 13:31-38**

## **God is Glorified**

- 31. 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.”**
- 36. Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.”**

- 37. Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”**
- 38. Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.**

## John 13:31-38 : God is Glorified

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

Five times the verb "glorify" appears here. Why this shout of victory at the very moment Judas was dispatched for the act of betrayal?

Answer: the sufferings and death of Christ were not forced upon Jesus by circumstances out of his control. It was voluntary.

The glory was not in the manner of the death, but in the effects it would produce.

Jesus' glory in heaven and His glory in the eyes of men came after the death was accomplished.

The death itself was a horrible torment, that Jesus dreaded (Philippians 2:5-11; Ephesians 1:18-21).

**The incarnation of God and His unblemished sacrifice offer the perfect remedy for man's rebellion and sin.**

**He grew up specifically for an appointed time of death. Jesus was resolved in His purpose: He insisted that He must suffer terrible things and be killed (Luke 9:22).**

**There was nothing accidental in His crucifixion, no tragic twist of fate that resulted in an untimely death at the hands of executioners.**

**It was the Lord's good plan to crush Him.**

**Isaiah 53:10a - Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt.**

**Why?**

**Because the cost of our rebellion had to be paid. The tide of sin had to be reversed. Death had to die.**