

Lesson 52: John 13:21 – 14:7 "A New Commandment?"

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,^[b] ²⁴ so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus^[c] 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.

- a. "Jesus was troubled in His spirit" – having given His disciples one last teaching on servanthood (together with the example of foot washing), Jesus is sad in His spirit.
- b. "one of you will betray Me." – one last call for Judas to repent, i.e. call off his betrayal.
- c. "who is it?" – John, at Peter's request, asked Jesus THE question they all would have wanted to know!
- d. "he to whom I give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." – dipping bread into bitter herbs as part of the Passover ritual. The Passover meal was the unifying festival for all of Judaism (still is today, even for those who consider themselves "reformed" or "secular" Jews!). The fact that Judas chose to cement his betrayal by sharing the meal (and later a kiss) with Jesus, highlighted his traitorous act.
- e. "Satan entered into him." – not a demonic possession, but certainly Judas was now a tool of the devil. Judas was in his own mind, with his own agenda.

¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³ 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.' ⁴ 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. ⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

- a. "Son of Man is glorified...God will also glorify Him in Himself" - Note the passive tense of the verb "glorified." The emphasis is not on Jesus' glorifying

Himself or bringing "glory" to God's name – by what He is about to undertake. The focus is on God doing the glorifying. This is of great comfort and confidence for Christians, under persecution or duress. God will bring glory to Himself, even if the Christian falls short of that because of pain, sorrow, the enormity of sacrifice, doubts, or fears.

- b. **"Where I am going you cannot come."** – He must go to the cross and the grave alone; followed by His ascension into heaven.
- c. **"A new commandment...just as I have loved you, you also are to"** – the verb tense is important: continued action. **"as I have kept on loving you, you are to keep on loving each other."** This loving is:
 - a. Unconditional (without putting conditions of bias or behavior)
 - b. Motivated by Jesus' unconditional loving
 - c. Empowered by God's grace
 - i. Who, in your life, do you need Jesus' help in loving?
 - ii. "Lord, teach me how to love _____."
- d. **"By this all people will know...if you"** – **"if you keep on loving each other."**
 - a. What does "keep on loving each other" look like in the midst of COVID?
 - b. What does "keep on loving each other" look like in the midst of national, local, and societal unrest?

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.

- a. **"you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward,"** – Jesus' reference to the cross & eventual resurrection.
- b. **"the rooster will not crow till you have denied Me"** – Peter's loyalty to Jesus was strong in his intent. No doubt he meant it, in the moment. Jesus knew what would happen in the heat of the moment.

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;^[a] believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going."^[c] ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.^[d] From now on you do know him and have seen him."

- a. **"Let not your hearts be troubled"** – Jesus' words of departure were not what His disciples wanted to hear. "Let" means they had a choice to crumble or not crumble in a fear of abandonment. In essence, Jesus was saying, "Take a courageous perspective, based on knowing God and what they have witnessed in Jesus.

- b. **"In My Father's house are many rooms"** – He points them to a glorious future beyond this life! "Many rooms" is translated "Many mansions" and would have been unimaginable in the mind's eye of many Jews. Most Jewish houses were one-room abodes.
- c. **"I go and prepare a place for you...you may be also"** – Jesus is pointing them (and us) to a wonderful future, of His making.
 - a. When you know that company is coming over, what preparations do you make in your home?
 - b. How is He spending eternity right now? Getting ready for company!
- d. **"And you know the way...How can we know the way?"** – with another delightful play on the word "know" and "way," Jesus redirects Thomas.
 - a. Thomas was thinking 'directionally' while Jesus is speaking 'relationally.'
 - b. "know" as knowledge vs. "know" as intimate relationship
- e. **"I AM the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."**
 - a. Jesus reiterates Himself as the gatekeeper for the sheep. The way into the Father's house, is through faith in Jesus.
 - i. His perfect life was lived for us, because we could not do it.
 - ii. His perfect life was sacrificed, because an imperfect life would not suffice to pay the price of redemption/forgiveness.
 - iii. His perfect, but dead life, was raised to life as the first fruits of our resurrection from the dead.
 - iv. Any attempt to know the Father, other than through Jesus, ultimately fails because imperfect people cannot inherit the kingdom of God.