

John 13:31 –14:14

³¹ So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. ³² If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.

³³ Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come,’ so now I say to you. ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another;

as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all 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 shall follow Me afterward.”

³⁷ Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.”

³⁸ Jesus answered him, “Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times. “Let not your heart be troubled; you 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 to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

Introduction

Two weeks ago we left John’s Gospel at a critical point in the story. Judas had just left the supper and gone out into the night to betray Jesus. Immediately Judas had gone, the atmosphere was spiritually prepared for Jesus to instruct His disciples, preparing them for His crucifixion and His return to Heaven.

It was after Judas’s departure that Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper. This was something that Judas as an unbeliever couldn’t share.

Judas was out into the night being controlled by the prince of darkness, Satan, and Jesus the Light of the world was sharing love and truth with His Disciples.

Jesus was left alone with His Disciples and a deep conversation began between them. This conversation is known as the “Upper Room Discourse”.

Jesus uses this opportunity to teach his disciples a number of things. These things will be uncovered over the next few weeks as we expose the pages of scripture.

What Jesus teaches his disciples from here to the end of chapter 17 is important. It tells us what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus between the time of His ascension and the time of His return. Throughout the conversation Jesus continually reassures His disciples about the period in which He will be separated from them.

The conversation in these chapters is essential to the overall purpose of John’s Gospel.

It explains what it means to believe in Jesus and to have life now, and also to have life after death.

1. The Glory of God - 13: v. 31-32.

Jesus makes an announcement to the disciples that God is now going to be glorified and that He would be glorified in God. From a human perspective it is difficult to see how the cruel death of Jesus on the cross could possibly glorify God.

The question we need to ask is – what did it mean for Jesus to glorify the Father?

Well the answer is always in the text. We need to go to John 17 and verse 4.

John 17: v. 4. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

Jesus was about to glorify God because He was about to finish the work that God had given Him to do on this earth.

This is the way that we all glorify God, by faithfully doing what God calls us to do.

In the case of Jesus, God had called Him to die on a cruel cross for lost sinners that is you and me. Also it was God's will that Jesus be raised from the dead and then return to Heaven.

The personal question we need to answer is how we are going to glorify God in our own lives.

God has a plan and purpose for each one of us and to the degree that we follow God's plan, we bring Him glory on this earth. God's will for us is revealed in His word, and as we obey it we bring glory to God.

Spiritual war-fare is basically a "Glory Issue". When we obey God, and His word, we bring glory to His name. However when we disobey God's word and go our own way and follow our own thinking, then we bring glory to the devil.

Any true born again believer will never want to bring glory to the devil. Therefore we must stand firm upon God's word and obey it, whatever the cost. That way we will always bring glory to God.

It is very clear in Isaiah Chapter 14: v. 12-15 what Satan's agenda is.

I will read from the N.L.T.

¹² "How you are fallen from heaven,
O shining star, son of the morning!
You have been thrown down to the earth,
you who destroyed the nations of the world.

¹³ For you said to yourself,
'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars.
I will preside on the mountain of the gods
far away in the north.

¹⁴ I will climb to the highest heavens
and be like the Most High.'

¹⁵ Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead,
down to its lowest depths.

It is clear from the passage in Isaiah that Satan wanted to be like God, but God will not share His glory with any other person. Therefore following Satan is the way of defeat, don't do it, it will end in disappointment because Satan was defeated by Jesus on the cross.

2. The announcement by Jesus & the challenge for discipleship – v. 33-38.

Jesus makes an important announcement to His disciples. He tells them that He is only going to be with them for a little while. He was going somewhere where they couldn't go immediately.

This announcement sparked off a reaction in the heart of Peter. Peter said to Jesus that he was willing to lay down his life for Him. Peter loved Jesus and wanted to follow Him. However Jesus knew the heart of Peter and without the power of the Holy Spirit in his life, controlling him, he would be weak.

Therefore Jesus revealed what would happen before the rooster crowed in early morning the next day. Jesus said to the person who was willing to follow Him, "you will deny me 3 times"

This prophecy must have been hard for Jesus to give and hard for Peter to receive.

Surely Peter's love for Jesus was enough to carry him through the next 24 hours.

The reality is that it wasn't enough.

Peter failed because he wasn't yet equipped to love Jesus in the way that Jesus challenged him to love in v. 34-35. (Read it in the NKJ)

It is easy for us to see that Peter failed because he was not yet filled with the Holy Spirit of God. His head wanted to follow Jesus and he had the best intentions, but His heart was not yet filled with God's love through His Holy Spirit.

Let us not condemn Peter before we examine our own hearts.

It is impossible to follow the challenge of Jesus in v. 34-35 unless we have been born again by God's Holy Spirit and filled by God's Holy Spirit.

If we try to be a disciple of Jesus in our own strength, we will fail. If we try to love like Jesus without His Holy Spirit, we will fail.

We must have the love of Jesus living in our heart, if we would ever love like Jesus.

This is a challenge for all of us, including me.

Jesus actually says in v. 35 that we can be identified as His disciples if we display the love of Jesus if we love other believers in the way that Jesus loved us.

In other words, our love actions towards one another, prove our discipleship.

It is not human love that will always fail, it is the love of Jesus, through His Holy Spirit, living in our hearts, which will demonstrate our discipleship.

I hesitate to give you a personal example, because these messages go out on the internet world wide. However I feel that I must because it makes a very good point about the love of Jesus in our hearts and how we can love the unlovable person with a supernatural love.

Personal Testimony

From a very early age I can always remember that my Father had a very violent temper. Sadly that anger spilled over into aggressive behavior towards my Mother and myself. Sometimes I was physically beaten. I grew up not having any human love for my Father. I was saved from a lot of his behavior by being in Boarding School for most of my education.

When I returned to God at the age of 25 I was filled to overflowing by God's Holy Spirit. From that time onwards I had a love for my Father that was not human.

I can only describe it as the love of Jesus. I remember saying to my Mother one day,
“If Dad was still alive I could love him”
She said “I don’t know how you could say that after all that he did to you”
I replied “I can only do it through the love of Jesus in my heart”.

Maybe there is somebody in your life that you can’t love right now.

Perhaps they have done something to you that you find difficult to forgive them for.

The only advice I can give you is to ask for more of God’s love in your heart in order to love that person with God’s love.

Things that are impossible with man or woman, are possible with God.

Real Holy Spirit Christian love is a very powerful witness, not only to other believers but to unbelievers too. It is no wonder that the first thing that Jesus said to His disciples after the announcement of His departure was to love in a “Supernatural Way”.

3. The encouragement from Jesus to His troubled disciples – 14: v. 1-4.

In these first 4 verses of chapter 14 Jesus speaks to all the disciples to reassure them about their future. The disciples would have been very concerned about what Jesus was saying to them. They had given up everything to follow Him and now Jesus was going to disappear and be separated from them.

The comfort that Jesus gives them comes not only from Himself but also from God the Father.

Up until now, Jesus has focused upon why and how people need to be rescued. Jesus now explains what people are rescued for.

According to Jesus we are rescued for “Heaven”. Heaven is a real place for real people to live in eternity with Jesus.

This was the comfort that the disciples needed when they had troubled hearts.

This is the comfort that we all need when we have troubled hearts.

Heaven is the place where God dwells and where Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father.

In the New Testament, Heaven is described in at least 5 ways.

- a) Heaven is described as a Kingdom – 2 Peter 1:11
- b) Heaven is described as an inheritance – 1 Peter 1:4.
- c) Heaven is described as a country – Hebrews 11:16.
- d) Heaven is described as a city – Hebrews 11:16.
- e) Heaven is described as a Home – John 14:2.

The word Father is used 53 times in John 13-17. We are told here that Heaven is my Father's House. It is "Home" for God's children.

In England when a Christian dies we say that they were "Called Home". This is a wonderful way of describing the death of a Christian, it is both Biblical and comforting.

Some years ago a London Newspaper held a competition to determine the best definition of "Home".

The winning entry was this: "Home is the place where you are treated the best and complain the most"

However Home in Heaven will be so spectacular that there will be no complaints.

The Greek translation of our English word "Mansions" is just places to live.

This does not mean that we will be living in a 7 bedroom house with an "Onsen" and a Jacuzzi and a golf course as a back garden. However it does mean that Jesus is preparing a place for all believers to live in Heaven. We won't worry about luxury in heaven because heaven is luxury.

The important things are Heaven is actually what will NOT be there, rather than what will be there.

We need to turn to Revelation 21 to discover what will not be in heaven.

- a) There will be no death – Rev. 21:4. So there will be no bereavement or any sadness about the loss of a loved one.
- b) There will be no tears or sorrow - Rev. 21:4. People cry about a lot of things. Mainly they cry about things that hurt them emotionally. There will be no emotional upsets in heaven.
- c) No Pain in Heaven. Rev. 21:4. Pain is a terrible thing. We have medicine that can relieve pain in our bodies today, however some of us have experienced very real pain. We won't have to go through physical pain in heaven.
- d) There will be no sin committed in Heaven and no sinful people there. Rev. 21:8.

We live in a world where murders take place every day and evil people do evil things. However these people will not be in Heaven. We will not have to fear the thief, the mugger, the murderer, the abuser, or any other evil activity. There will only be love and kindness in Heaven.

Thinking just about those 4 things which are not in Heaven make us excited about going there one day.

The thing to make sure about is that when you die, you are going to Heaven.

The only way to make sure about that is to believe in your heart what God's word says.

Do you really believe that the God of the Bible created you for a relationship with Himself? (Genesis Chapter 2)

Do you believe that the sin of Adam and Eve has caused us all to be born into this world, separated from this Holy God? (Genesis Chapter 3 – Rom. 3:23)

If you believe this in your heart, you have a problem. Your problem is that God's wrath and punishment is already upon you. (Rom. 1:18)

How are we going to escape God's wrath for our sin?

We need someone to save us, because we can't save ourselves.

God who is rich in mercy, sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, from Heaven to rescue us from our sins. The only way God could do this without compromising His Holiness, was to punish His only Son, as a substitute sacrifice, taking the punishment for our sins.

For everybody in this world it is either Heaven or Hell after death. There is no second chance, after death.

Hebrews 9:27 "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement."

You must make a decision now, to believe in Jesus as the ONLY answer for your sins. There is nobody else who can help you, there is no other way to Heaven, except through Jesus. Will you trust Him today?

Finally Jesus says in Chapter 14: 3 that He is coming back again.

The second coming of Jesus Christ to this earth is a big subject. We don't have time to deal with it this morning, but Jesus mentioned it here for His disciples to encourage them.

The prophecies concerning the first coming of Jesus were fulfilled literally in every aspect. We have no reason to doubt that the prophecies concerning the second coming of Jesus will be any different.

Be encouraged that the second coming of Jesus is not far away.

Application

We have dealt with some applications as we have been through this passage. However before we close we need to be reminded of the 3 important ones.

1. God is glorified through the teaching about the cross of Jesus. God is glorified when we understand all that this involves. God is not glorified by signs and wonders and large buildings, or large numbers of people in a Church. God is glorified when we preach and teach the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and when we obey His word in our lives.
2. Separation from Jesus now, may cause our hearts to be troubled. We may question why we have to live now in such a bad world. The way to tackle these emotions is to have an eternal perspective in view. We must look beyond this world. We must have one eye on heaven. We need to look forward to the future when we will be in a better place.
3. The third application is that Christian love is a powerful witness in the world as we wait for the return of Jesus. The Christian community should be an attractive place to live and that really depends upon us and the love of Jesus poured out through our hearts.