

Poynton Parish Church January 2015
Home Group Notes 5
John 13:31-38

Introduction

In the previous verses Jesus had graciously offered Judas the wine dipped bread. He had the offer of a way back from what was in his heart. But Judas was intent on betrayal. He turned his back on Jesus and leaves the Upper Room, "And it was night." Jesus continues teaching His disciples knowing what's ahead.

*****Read John 13:31-38*****

1. We often hear people blame God for many things which happen in our world. What sort of things? How might you respond to these accusations against God?
2. Read John 13:31-35 again. When someone we know is glorified what might we expect that to entail? How would the 'Son of Man' been glorified at Judas' departure? (vs 31). How different is Jesus' glorification from the world's?
3. God is Glorified in Him (Jesus) vs 31. How is God glorified in Jesus? What kind of God does this reveal to humanity? (2 Cor 5:19, Rom 5:8,10).
4. Vs 32b, 'God will also glorify Him (Jesus) in Himself.' Here Jesus predicts how will God ultimately glorify Jesus. So how will He do this?
5. What is Jesus referring to in vs 33?
6. What was the 'new commandment' (vs 34) Jesus gave to His disciples? Loving others is in the 10 commandments, so why and how is Jesus commandment 'new'?
7. The challenge is clear. Do we love like Jesus loves? What realistic hope have we of getting near this standard of holiness? (Rom 7:15-25).
8. Why is our behaviour and treatment of others crucial for our witness? (vs 35). What is your experience of this?

*****Read John 13:36-38*****

These verses are the object lesson to point out our inability to love as Jesus loves.

9. How well does Peter know himself? How well do we know ourselves? Why does this matter?
 10. Often we over estimate ourselves as Peter did! Why is knowing our own weaknesses helpful?
 11. Do we foolishly think that we possess all the resources to live the way Jesus wants us to? If we do we may have to learn the hard way!
 12. We saw in the last study that the starting point is the all over, once for all washing by Jesus. Peter had that, but still fell. How important is our prayer life in enabling us to live the way Jesus wants? How could you make this work in practice?
- Peter's failure is a stark warning for us to be on guard and lean on the Lord in our moments of weakness. In the face of failure it's worth remembering that, 'He (Jesus) loved them to the end.' He'll never cast us away if we turn to Him. Such is His patient love for us.
13. Do we learn from our failures? Or do we continually keep making the same mistakes? Or do we wallow in our failures?
 14. The encouragement for us is that Peter did follow Jesus later (vs 36). How can this encourage us in those times we fail?

We may fail, but Jesus's promise to those who love Him will never fail – "Where I am going you cannot follow me now; **but you will follow afterwards.**"

Prayer

Pray for Jesus' power to love as He loved
Pray for those strained relationships that Jesus would use you to help reconciliation.
Pray for courage to stand for Jesus in difficult situations.
Pray for determination in your prayer life.
Pray for Rob in India