

“The Gospel of John: The New Commandment”

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Scripture

John 13:31-38

“Therefore, 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 **will glorify Him immediately.**”

“Little children, I am with you a little while longer. **You will seek Me**; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, '**Where I am going, you cannot come.**'”

“**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.** By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

“Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "**Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.**”

“Peter said to Him, "Lord, **why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You.**" Jesus answered, "**Will you lay down your life for Me?** Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.”

Last Week

We looked at Jesus setting the example culture two week ago -> service to one another in love

Then, we looked at Judas's betrayal of Jesus and celebrated our commitment to Jesus with communion

Judas was counterculture -> against the idea that we should be willing to humbly serve one another

Some people are of the darkness, we should be of the Light

This Week

Jesus has set the culture for the group

He's dismissed the betrayer to go do his evil

He is going to give them the over-arching directional statement, the mantra, the ethos they should follow

But first, He must remind them of something important

His Glorification Is Imminent

John 13:31-32

“Therefore, 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 **will glorify Him immediately.**”

Jesus was heading to the cross

The disciples may not have liked to hear it

He's told them many times

Matthew 16:21-23 (after Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ)

“From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.”

Mark 9:30-32 (after casting a demon out of a deaf and mute child)

“From there they went out and began to go through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know about it. For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later." But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.”

Why does Jesus tell the disciples He's going away?

He wants them to understand:

- 1) The Messiah is going to die for His people
- 2) The continuing ministry is going to be their responsibility

“Get prepared, young men -> this will be yours someday”

Judas leaving to turn Jesus in set in motion the last day of Jesus's life on earth

The disciples will need to take over for Jesus soon

These chapters with Jesus and the Twelve, John 13-17, is their final training event before the cross

Jesus continues:

My Time is Fading, Your Time Has Come

John 13:33

“Little children, I am with you a little while longer. **You will seek Me;** and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'”

Jesus said the same thing to the Jews:

John 7:32-36

“The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him. **Therefore, Jesus said, "For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me. "You will seek Me and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come."** The Jews then said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? He is not intending to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He? "What is this statement that He said, You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come'?"”

He repeated it again in John 8:

John 8:21-24

"Then He said again to them, **"I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come."** So, the Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" And He was saying to them, **'You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. Therefore, I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.'**"

What is Jesus's point here to the disciples?

Is it the same point He noted to the Jews?

Yes and No:

Yes, in the sense that it was not the disciples' time to go to Heaven-> that will come later on

No, because the Jews in John 7-8 needed to realize that Jesus was God, was from Heaven, and repent

They would be not be able to follow Him - not now or ever

Unless **"you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins"** – if they didn't believe Jesus was God, Hell was coming for them

"Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me"

Would the disciples be looking for Jesus after the cross?

All people are called to seek the Lord:

Isaiah 55:6-7

"Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."

Will all people find the Lord?

Jeremiah 29:11-13

"For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."

Only those who search for the Lord with all their heart will find Him

You need a new heart to find the Lord

It's a good thing that He will create a new heart in you in order TO find Him

This is David's prayer for himself after his sin with Bathsheba:

Psalms 51:10-12

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence; take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit."

David screams, "CHANGE ME GOD!"

The disciples will be changed, as well

When they have been changed, Jesus wants them to remember their mission:

The New Commandment

John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

"A new commandment"

"New" is the Greek *kainos* (*kahee-noce*) meaning "qualitatively new or fresh"

It is not new in order but new in quality -> "It's a new day" OR "It's a NEW DAY!"

The new commandment is deeper than the Old commandment -> **it is more personal**

You remember the Old commandments:

Deuteronomy 6:5

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

Leviticus 19:18

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD."

Jesus told the Jews earlier that the whole law hung on these two summary statements:

Matthew 22:37-40

"He said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 'This is the great and foremost commandment. 'The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' 'On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.'"

Was there something incomplete with those Old commandments?

No!

The enhancement is in the phrase **"even as I have loved you"**

How did Jesus love the disciples?

John noted that in the first verse of John 13:

John 13:1

"Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."

"To the end" -> to the limit, completely, perfectly

It's a **sacrificial** love

John 15:13

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

Jesus said, “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”

It is an identifying love -> it shows that you belong to Jesus

“I can see Jesus in you...”

Visitors to the church will know

The community will know

Unbelievers will know

You are His!

It's not church programs

It's not the great prose of the pastor

It's not how beautiful the building is

It's how beautiful the Church is

It's YOU!

Key Point: We have all the power through the Spirit to love each other to the end, just as Jesus loved us

Even though Jesus has told the disciples He comes from Heaven and will be going back there

Peter wants to know

Their Future Glory

John 13:36

“Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "**Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.**”

Earlier, Jesus said that the disciples couldn't come with Him

He now clarifies that the disciples will come later and follow Him

Later on, Jesus will tell Peter:

John 21:18-19 (after the Resurrection)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, **you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished**; but when you grow old, **you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you and bring you where you do not wish to go.**” Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, ‘**Follow Me!**’”

Jesus said, “You will follow Me, Peter” -> “You will glorify God, Peter”

But Peter is impatient and full of pride and a vocal commitment

But is it true commitment at this time?

How will Peter go through his eventual end-of-life situation?

Not In Your Power Alone, You Won't

John 13:37-38

“Peter said to Him, "Lord, **why can I not follow You right now?** I will lay down my life for You.”

Jesus answered, "**Will you lay down your life for Me?** Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.”

Peter exclaims he is willing to go the cross now for Jesus

We know the story, what will Peter do?

Luke 22:54-62

“Having arrested Him, they led Him away and brought Him to the house of the high priest; but Peter was following at a distance. After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter was sitting among them.

And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, "This man was with Him too." But he denied it, saying, "**Woman, I do not know Him.**”

A little later, another saw him and said, "You are one of them too!" But Peter said, "**Man, I am not!**”

After about an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, "Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too." But Peter said, "**Man, I do not know what you are talking about.**” Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, **you will deny Me three times.**” And he went out and wept bitterly.”

What happened to Peter's great boldness?

What didn't Peter have at that time?

Zechariah 4:1

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.”

Galatians 5:16

“But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

Without the Holy Spirit, you will give in to the flesh

If the flesh says, “protect yourself”, you will run -> If the Spirit says, “Stand firm”, you will stand firm

It was not Peter's time to follow Jesus

He had work to do for Jesus

We have more work to do for Jesus -> and we start by loving each other to the end as Jesus loved us

Prayer

Benediction