

Life in His Name – Part 33
Light and Darkness - John 13:19-38
Crosspoint – Dave Spooner – Oct.29th, 2023

Intro:

- If you have been here for our series on the Gospel of John, hopefully by now you know the purpose of this book.

John 20:31 ESV

These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- I also want you to know the purpose and the prayer of the Bible.

Rom 15:4 NIV

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

- The Bible was written to teach us, encourage us to persevere, and give us hope.
- The prayer of the Bible is connected to the purpose.

Rom 15:5-6 NIV

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- The prayer is that God would give you a spirit of unity as we, as God's people, follow Christ Jesus, and that we together with one heart and mouth glorify God, who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- So, as we turn to our passage today in John chapter thirteen, I want you to know that my aim is the same aim as Scripture's, that today you will be taught, and through this teaching, you will find encouragement and hope so that you continue to faithfully follow Jesus until you see Him face to face. My prayer is the prayer of Scripture—that we would have a spirit of unity as we follow Jesus and together in our hearts and with our mouths glorify God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.
- There are three things from this text that I want to show you that, if you remember them, will give you instruction, encouragement, and hope. I made the points personal so that you will apply them to your life and hopefully remember them. Here are the three main points: Jesus knows me fully, Jesus shows me who He is, Jesus grows me to be like Him. We will unpack these one by one.
- Let's put ourselves back in the text. We are with Jesus and His disciples in the upper room where there is anticipation coupled with tension as to what will happen. There is a demonstration of power and humility as Jesus provides instruction as to how they are to treat one another.
- Jesus knew what they would do, and He knew that not all of them would do what He instructed. From the following text, we will learn things about ourselves and Jesus.

Jesus knows me fully.

John 13:18 NIV

“I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned against me.’”

- Jesus knows you, your purpose, and your future. Jesus said that He knows those whom He has chosen. He knows them. And He knows you. He knows their thoughts, desires, giftedness, fears, passion, and pains. He knows their capacities and motivations. He knows the complications and uniquenesses of every person, including you. Jesus understands you fully and completely. You don't ever need to wonder if God gets you. He does. He understands you way better than you understand yourself. This should give you comfort in being known and confidence in Jesus's communication and directives to you.
- Jesus knows your purpose. He knew all those whom He chose to be part of the twelve, to be in the inner circle, the ones He would give Himself to more fully. He chose Judas. Just as each person was chosen to fulfill his purpose, Judas was chosen to fulfill his as well. Scripture was to be fulfilled, and in this case, someone who was a “friend” of Jesus, someone close to Him, someone He shared His life with betrayed Him. There needed to be someone to fulfill that role. Judas had that purpose because Jesus knew Him, and He knew what he would do, so Judas was chosen. Jesus knows your purpose as well. You can trust that He has the best in heart and mind for you. We can go to Him to understand ourselves and then understand who we are in relation to Him and our role in the world.
- Jesus knows the future. He knows exactly what will happen, how it will happen, and by whom. Jesus allows things to happen to give evidence as to who people are and to ultimately hold them accountable and give people what is due them. We can trust His teaching and His guidance because He tells us the truth. He tells us with 100% certainty what is to come. You can trust Him.

Jesus shows me who He is.

John 13:19 NIV

“I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am.”

- Jesus is “I AM who I AM.” Jesus is God. He gives evidence that He is God by telling us what will happen in the future. Omniscience (knowing everything, including the future) is a characteristic of God and God alone. Listen to what God says through Isaiah:

Isa 41:21-24 ESV

Set forth your case, says the Lord; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. 22 Let them bring them, and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come. 23 Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; do good, or do harm, that we may be dismayed and terrified. 24 Behold, you are nothing, and your work is less than nothing; an abomination is he who chooses you.

Isa 44:6-8 ESV

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. 7 Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them

declare what is to come, and what will happen. 8 Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

- Jesus is now giving more evidence of His identity. He told the disciples and was telling us what is going to happen in the future, and as these things happen, we have further proof that He is God. We can believe in Him. This is significant.
- How do you know that Jesus is God? He said He was, and He repeatedly proved it by doing what only God can do, including telling us what will happen. And because of His being 100% accurate, when He tells us something will happen in the future, you can 100% believe that it will happen, including His return, the resurrection, the judgment, and making all things new for eternity, including you and me. This should give you encouragement and hope to trust Him and follow Him and honor Him and cling to Him and persevere to the end.
- Jesus then gave even more proof by saying:

John 13:20 NIV

“Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.”

- He, as Lord, has the authority to send us to represent Him. If people accept us, they will accept Him, and whoever accepts Him accepts the Father. So, if people listen to the message of Christ from us and believe it, they receive both the Son and the Father, which is a restatement that He and the Father are one.

John 13:21 NIV

After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

- Jesus is emotionally connected to the betrayals, breaches, and bruises that happen in this life through relationships that have been broken. God is not a calculator in the sky but a being who connects with emotions as well. We feel because He feels, and healthy people feel even though the situation is painful.

John 13:22-30 NIV

His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.

- I imagine them staring at one another, squinty-eyed, quickly going through what they knew about each other, looking for evidence to give them a clue as to who was the one who would betray Jesus.
- But they didn't know. Even though Jesus knew, He gave no indication of what He knew. This should cause you to pause. This means that Jesus treated them all the same, including the one He knew would betray Him to death. Including the one who was stealing from them all. He treated them all the same. Do you have this same grace and love? You and I don't, and we need the Spirit of Jesus to give this to us.

John 13:23-27a NIV

One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”

25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

26 Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

- Satan can be in the presence of Jesus. This demonic connection harkens back to Genesis 3:15, saying the snake (Satan) will strike His heel, and He will crush his head. Evil has demonic origins, and this is the real power behind the scenes (see Eph. 6:10-19).

John 13:27b-30 NIV

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” 28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. 30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

- Indeed, it was night. This is where the demonic penetrates the heart of one of the leaders, which can cause great damage to the relationship and mission of the ministry. We must be aware of the enemy, pray, and stand against Him. This is one of the main strategies he uses to disrupt and destroy the work of God among any group of people. The devil will not win in the end, but He will cause as much damage as he can along the way. It was night—this betrayal was dark and dark as the blackest night.
- This darkness had to happen to provide the starkest contrast for the light. A deep, dark, and demonic *selfish act* stands in contrast to the greatest of the glory of God in a *selfless act*.

John 13:31-32 NIV

When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

- The glory of the cross is seen in the selfless and sinless sacrifice of God for those He loves. What is the ultimate purpose of the cross? To display God’s glory. Our salvation is a means to this ultimate end, that we can know the greatness of the glory of God.

John 13:33 NIV

“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.”

- Jesus uses an affectionate term with them, and He uses it with us. Think about someone who is about to die and the love that wells up in his heart toward his children. Jesus longed and longs to be with “His children,” but there must be separation for a time.
- In this instance, Jesus was going to go to the cross, die, and then rise again. He had to do this alone. He could not do it with His disciples. They could not go through it with Him, but they and we will follow the path to join Him in the end.
- In all that He said and did, Jesus showed us who He is, who God is. Believe in Him to be with you along the way, believe in His promises, be encouraged, and have hope. Along our way, Jesus grows us to be like Him.

Jesus grows me to be like Him.

John 13:34-35 NIV

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

- This passage could be a sermon in itself. How is this command “new” since in the Old Testament, we were told to love the Lord and to love our neighbor as ourselves? It is new in this way. We are to love each other as Jesus has loved us, namely, by using our power and position to sacrificially serve others. Dying to ourselves so others may live.
- This is not optional for Christians; we, you and I, **MUST** love one another, those who are other believers who are with us. By the way, you cannot fulfill this command if you are not in community. God provides the church for us to do so.
- This commandment is a big deal for John, and it must be a big deal to us. John, in writing a letter to the church, continues to highlight, hammer, and unpack this theme. Here are some additional things John wrote:
 - **Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)**
 - **We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. (1 John 3:14)**
 - **By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (1 John 3:10)**
 - **Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8)**
 - **Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light. (1 John 2:9–10).**
- Who is the “everyone” in “by this everyone will know that you are my disciples?” The “everyone” is those who are recipients of this love, and in this case, it is other Christians. So how does the body of Christ know if you are a true disciple, the “real deal?” It is by your love. This is how we in this body know who you are, by the love you show in how you live.
- Jesus grows us to be like Him by commanding us, cultivating us, and correcting us to love each other as He loved us so that we can give evidence that we love God.
- Now I can hear the response, “I don’t need to prove to anyone that I love God.” Well, if you love God, then you will obey His commandments (John 14:15), and His commandment is to love one another. If you don’t love one another, then you don’t love God, and you are a liar, and the truth is not in you (1 John 2:4-6). Those who love God and believe in Him must prove it by their actions in loving others, period. If you don’t love others in the church, then you are not a part of the church. If you are not a part of the body of Christ, it means you are not in Christ, which means you are just using the church to get what you want.
- Loving you is the way that God showed who He is. Loving people is the way to show who you are.

John 13:36-38 NIV

Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” 37 Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” 38 Then Jesus answered, “Will

you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!”

- Jesus, because of His love for us, helps us to see the truth about ourselves. He gives us opportunities for us to see ourselves as we are so that with this information, we can be shaped in His image by turning to and trusting in Him in humility so that He can be the strength and song of our hearts.

Conclusion

- Jesus knows me, Jesus shows me, Jesus grows me. These are the three points of this message. Please reflect upon what you heard today from this passage and make an appropriate response. It could be that you will love and honor Him more. It could be that you will renew your trust and commitment to Him. It could be that you will now use this teaching as fuel to encourage you to continue to press forward in the faith. It could be that in examining your heart for love of others, you don't have it and need to put your faith in Christ and ask Him for this love. It could be an encouragement to love others more sacrificially and deeply. Talk to God about this, be convinced in what you need to do, and then do it.