



Believing Christ - Responding to John's Gospel

John 13:31-38 As I Have Loved You...

The Gospel of John - Literary Structure

Prologue: John 1:1-18

The Book of Signs: John 1:19-12:50

The Book of Glory: John 13:1-20:31

Epilogue: John 21:1-25

John 13:31-33

- Glorification (God the Father and Son being glorified) is a key theme in the Gospel of John.
- This is echoed throughout John's Gospel – see John 11:4, 40; 12:41; 14:13; 17:1, 5, 22, 24.

The Pendulum Swings in John's Gospel....

High Point: The incarnate Jesus reveals his glory in 7 signs (Chapters 2-11)

Low Point: Jesus is betrayed, arrested, crucified and buried (Chapters 13-19)

THE CROSS IS THE TURNING POINT

High Point: Jesus is resurrected and ascended (Chapters 20-21)

"The Son of Man will be "lifted up" (12:32), and when he is, he will draw everyone to himself (cf. 3:13-14; 8:28). In 19:19-20, when Jesus is on the cross, he is proclaimed "king" in all the chief languages of the world. The cross is thus where Jesus is "elevated" above all, hailed as glorious ruler: through his resurrection, he is empowered to return to his place in heaven.' Gary M. Burge, *The NIV Application Commentary: John*, (Zondervan, 2009), page 403.

John 13:34,35

- In what sense is this a new commandment?
- The Law already called us to "love our neighbour as ourselves" (Leviticus 19:18 – which Jesus acknowledges in Matthew 22:39).
- The "new command" is that we must love as Jesus loved us. His love is now our standard (see also John 15:12-13).

The "My Disciples" passages

- Only 9 times in Gospels where Jesus specifically uses the word "My disciples" descriptively.
- 3 times when specifically referring to the 12 (Matthew 26:18; Mark 14:14; Luke 22:11).
- 3 times in Luke 14:25-33 on the PRIORITIES OF DISCIPLESHIP.
- 3 times in John's Gospel on the PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP.
 - 1) John 8:31-32: ABIDE IN MY WORD (Personal Devotion/Formation)
 - 2) John 13:34-35: LOVE ONE ANOTHER (Communal Commitment)
 - 3) John 15:8: BEAR FRUIT (Missional Multiplication)

Judas' Betrayal Versus Peter's Denial

Judas

- For Selfish Gain
- Premeditated
- Devotion to a Preconceived Idea
- Remorse without Repentance
- Suicide, the Ultimate Act of Self-centeredness

Peter

- For Self Preservation
- Rashly Emotional
- Devotion to Jesus
- Remorse Leading to Repentance
- Sacrifice, the Ultimate Act of Other-centered Love