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John 13 - Part III

A New Commandment I give You

John 13:31-32: *31. Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32. If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him.*

It was after Judas had left the group, that Jesus made this statement: *Now is the Son of man glorified*. How would Jesus be glorified, and the Father? What lessons can we learn from this? Remember how the Son, at the request of Moses, declared the Father's glory - *The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving [lifting up] iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty [acquits those who are not innocent]* (Exodus 34:6-7 [Hebrew]). THIS is the glory of the Father and Son manifested by Jesus on the cross - the Father stood by while they crucified his Son, and Jesus, from the cross said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." THIS is the glory for which Jesus prayed later that night, declaring that he had manifested it to his followers: **John 17:5-6:** *5. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. 6. I have manifested thy name unto the men which you gave me out of the world....* Jesus was glorified with, and manifested the character of his Father. We, who are not innocent, are acquitted when we see and accept the true light.

Look at the saying of Jesus how he would be glorified - after Judas had left the group: Judas had an "unclean spirit." When I think of it as an allegory, I am reminded of this prophecy: **Zechariah 13:1-2:** *1. In that day there shall be a fountain (of truth) opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. 2. And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the (my) land (between my ears), and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the (false) prophets (all error I was taught) and the unclean spirit (perverted understanding) to pass out of the land.* Jesus, who had our sin-nature, had purged any anger or resentment toward Judas for the betrayal he would carry out. The cross reveals the sins we have committed against God and others, and the sins that have been committed against ourselves by others, which opens the way to be rid of any unclean spirit that resides in us.

It is the teaching of the cross that will manifest both the evil of the human nature and yet enable those open to receive it, to put in subjection the sin-nature, as they assimilate the character of the Father. **Galatians 6:12-15:** *12. As many as desire to look well in the flesh, these compel you to be circumcised (by their doctrines); only lest they should (only that they may not, cf Gal 5:11; Acts 15:5) suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13. For they themselves, having been circumcised, do not even keep the Law, but they desire you to be circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. 14. But may it never be for me to boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. 15. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision has any strength, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation (MKJV). Look at many of the preachers today - they desire you to answer the altar call, they desire you to be baptized or slain in the spirit (their interpretation), so that they can glory in your flesh. Teach the cross accurately, and we will be persecuted. But, like Paul, the world's way of thinking can be crucified to me by living out the principle of love manifested at the cross.*

John 13:33-36-38: 33. *Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.*36. *Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, you can not follow me now; but thou shall follow me afterwards.* 37. *Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.* 38. *Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice (three times).*

Why were the disciples not able to follow Jesus at that time, but would follow him later? Peter is a type for every human being that has ever lived on this planet - all have denied Christ. But Peter, unlike Judas who carried out his plan of betrayal, repented of his denial. Here are the words of Jesus from an earlier statement: **John 8:20-24:** 20. *These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.* 21. *Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.* 22. *Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come.* 23. *And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.* 24. *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.* The disciples, like the Jews were still “earthly” in their understanding. After the experience of the cross we begin to see more clearly and spiritually, provided we are seeking to understand and listening to the voice of the Spirit. Jesus literally and spiritually lay down his life for the people of the world. Those who cannot accept that Jesus suffered and died as the only birthed Son of God, birthed in eternity and in Bethlehem, cannot receive the concept of the love of God into their hearts. They will die IN their sins, because where Jesus is in his understanding, they will not go; nor will they be able to die to self with a perverted understanding: **Revelation 9:6:** *And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.* Our way of thinking has to be from above, and be assimilated in our lives. The assimilation comes when we can give the message and have no resentment toward others when we are persecuted.

John 13:34-35: 34. *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.* 35. *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.* The new commandment is a new understanding of the law, described in Matthew, chapters 5-7; It is the new covenant, the yoke of Christ that is so easy to bear. IT IS NOT a keeping of the letter of the law, which no one can do (John 7:19; Romans 2:23), but a keeping of the principle of love on which all the law and the prophets hang: **Matthew 7:12:** *Therefore all things whatsoever ye would (desire) that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Amen.*