

John 13:31-38

13:31

How is it that the Son of Man is PRESENTLY glorified when all that has happened is Judas' leaving the "little band" of disciples?

Notice that this is the last time that Jesus is called the "Son of Man" in this gospel.

13:32

A difficult verse to understand! Many manuscripts we have do not include the first part of the verse: "If God is glorified in him." There are difficulties also with the time tense of the verbs.

What this verse is PROBABLY saying is that if Jesus glorifies God by what He does (dying on the cross for the sins of the world), then God will glorify Jesus (raising Him from the dead). The only problem with this interpretation is the "at once" at the end of the verse. God waited three days to raise Jesus from the dead and did not do it "at once." However, in the big picture, three days is not a long time to wait.

The verse can also mean that the very thing with Jesus does to glorify God (dying on the cross) is the very thing God uses to glorify Jesus. The cross, therefore, IS the glory of Christ.

With either interpretation, it is key to notice that the DEATH OF JESUS brings GLORY TO GOD. God is glorified when He forgives sins and opens the door to everlasting life. God loves to forgive sins and is glorified when He does so!!!!

13:33

See also 8:21 & 8:22.

Jesus repeats the sentence: "where I am going, you cannot come" three times! Look back to John 8:21 and following. What was the reaction of the Jews to this statement of Jesus?

13:34-35

How has Jesus loved you?

How can we love each other like Jesus loves us?

Notice that Jesus does not say that people will believe in him by seeing how we live. We will be identified as his disciples by our love for each other, but for others to come to faith in Christ takes something completely different. Our lives are not “the only Bible that someone may ever read.” (See John 15 for more on this topic. Also notice that the love is to be to EACH OTHER- those in the community of believers.)

13:36

Now look at 13:33. How does Simon Peter react to this same statement? (Look for similarities and differences.)

Where is Jesus going? (See 14:28)

13:37

Simon Peter appears to think that his devotion to Christ (exemplified by his willingness to lay his life down for Christ) will merit his ability to follow Jesus wherever He goes. At this point, do you think Simon Peter understands the gracious nature of God?

13:38

Great boasts are made by Simon Peter as to his faithfulness and zeal for Christ. One of the lessons Simon Peter will learn with the crowing of the rooster is his inability to do anything for his Master that deserves any kind of reward. The denial of Simon Peter (which we will eventually get to!) shows man’s inability to do anything that deserves a reward from God.