

Jesus Our Model

John 13:31-35 (ESV)

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Context

John 13 begins in a *dark* moment. Evil seems to be getting the upper hand. Satan himself enters into Judas, and one of Jesus' own disciples is about to betray Him.

John adds a detail: "*and it was night.*" This is likely not just a time reference, but also a metaphorical picture of spiritual darkness closing in.

When life feels dark or uncertain, how do you usually respond? Where do you look for hope?

Our passage unfolds in three ways.

DISCUSS

1. The Maximum Point of Glory (13:31-32)

In these verses, we see two key ideas

Mutual Glorification

The Father and the Son are so closely united that when one is glorified, the other is also glorified. God's glory is revealed through Jesus.

So where do we see God's glory most clearly?

The Cross as the Highest Moment of Glory

The cross is the clearest and highest display of God's glory.

Jesus says "now" (v31) and "at once" (v32), showing that this moment is immediate.

There is also a missing word in our translation: 'therefore':
"When *therefore* Judas had gone out..."

This links Judas' betrayal directly to the moment of glory. His betrayal sets in motion the events leading to the cross, like a row of dominos.

Later we are told in John 21:19 that Jesus' death itself would glorify God.

Even in the Book of Revelation, Jesus is praised because He was *slain*, and He *redeemed people by His blood* (Rev 5:9-10).

God's glory is most clearly seen at the cross.

We don't need to look for new or greater displays of God's glory. At the cross, we see all His attributes (E.g. His love, justice, mercy, grace, holiness, etc) in full measure.

Which aspect of God's character at the cross stands out most to you right now (e.g. love, justice, mercy)? Why?

2. The Delay of Glory (13:33)

After speaking about glory, Jesus suddenly turns to His disciples with deep tenderness: "Little children... Where I am going you cannot come."

This is the only time in the Gospels where Jesus calls His disciples "*little children*." It shows His care and concern because what He is about to say is hard: "You cannot come with me."

These would have been frightening words because Jesus had said similar things before, and in those cases, they were linked to judgment (John 7:34; 8:21).

But here, Jesus is not rejecting them but preparing them. Eight verses later, He makes it clear that this separation is temporary. He will come again and bring them to Himself.

There is a real delay between Jesus' work at the cross and our experience of His glory.

So, for us, we live in a time between two glories:

We look back to the cross (where God's glory is most revealed)

We look forward to Christ's return (where we will share in His glory)

But for now, we wait.

"Where do you personally feel the tension of this 'waiting' (e.g. unanswered prayers, struggles, uncertainty)?"

3. Living Out the Glory (13:34-35)

So, if we are living between these two glories, how are we to live now?

Jesus gives the answer: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, just as I have loved you”. Love is not a new commandment; it goes back to Leviticus 19:18. What is new is the five words, “As I have loved you”.

This new model of love calls us to love in a self-sacrificial and servant-hearted way. It is a *cross-shaped* love.

The cross is not just something we look back on, but a pattern for how we live. So that by our love for one another, the world will know we are His disciples. Our very love points people to Jesus.

In other words, our cross-shaped love makes the glory of God visible to the world.

Who is one person in your life that is hard to love right now? What would it look like to love them in a cross-shaped way this week?

Pray For:

1. To see God’s glory clearly at the Cross

Pray that God would open our eyes to see His glory most clearly in Jesus’ death. That we would keep returning to the cross, especially when we feel distant, tired, or spiritually dry.

2. To Trust God in the Waiting.

Pray for faith and patience as we live between the cross and Jesus’ return. That we would trust God even when life feels uncertain or delayed.

3. To Love Others with a Cross-Shaped Love

Pray for strength to love others as Jesus has loved us, with His humility, sacrifice, and grace. That our lives would reflect Christ and point others to Him.