

John 13:28-38

Verse 28 The disciples did not know the purpose of why Jesus had said to Judas “what you do, do quickly.” This could have been because they were unaware of Peter and John’s efforts to find the answer, or they didn’t hear His answer to John’s question of whom would betray Him. Again, Judas had hidden hypocrisy and betrayal as none of the disciples guessed it would be Judas who would be the one who would betray Jesus as they had all asked “is it I?”

Verse 29 Judas had been entrusted with the money box and had appeared to show concern for the poor (**John 12:3-6**) in the past. For these reasons, they had supposed that he was either buying things needed for the feast or giving to the poor.

- **John 12:3-6** Mary then took a [a]pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to [b]betray Him, *said, ⁵ “Why was this perfume not sold for [c]three hundred denarii and given to poor *people*?” ⁶ Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.

Verse 30 John gives detail that it is night in the literal sense as the sun has set. He also could be hinting at the symbolism that Judas’ betrayal was to set into motion the events that would lead to the crucifixion of Jesus which would be the time where darkness would have its hour.

- **Luke 22:47-53** While He was still speaking, behold, a crowd *came*, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was preceding them; and he approached Jesus to kiss Him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” ⁴⁹ When those who were around Him saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Jesus answered and said, “[d]Stop! No more of this.” And He touched his ear and healed him. ⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against Him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as you would against a robber? ⁵³ While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but [e]this hour and the power of darkness are yours.”

Verses 31-32 Judas had gone out and Jesus knew that he was going to the Jewish leaders to betray Jesus. His arrest, trial, and death on the cross are at hand. He declared to them that in the cross the glory of the Son and the Father would be revealed. He would be glorified as the perfect sacrifice and savior who demonstrated perfect obedience to the Father. It would be the cross that He would have to suffer and endure to ascend as the Son of Man and enter the glory of His kingdom and return to the glory He had with the Father before the world was (**John 17:1-5**).

- **John 17:1-5** Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to [a]all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. ³ This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I glorified You on the earth, [b]having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Verse 33 Jesus states that the time of His death and departure back to the Father are at hand. Just as He had said to the Jews in **John 8:21**, He tells the disciples “Where I am going, you cannot come.” Jesus knowing that His departure is near, He now begins to shift into teaching them and instructing them in how to live after He is gone. He will tell them that love is a necessary and vital characteristic of His disciples. The same is true for Christians today.

They will be without His presence physically after His death, resurrection, and ascension. However, they will be filled with the Holy Spirit which Jesus will tell them is to their advantage (**John 16:7**).

They cannot go where He is going now which is to Heaven, but will one day be with Him in His presence forever. This is the same with all believers.

Verses 34-35

The commandment to love one another is not a new commandment.

- **Leviticus 19:18** You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.
- **Luke 10:26-27** And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? ^aHow does it read to you?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

What had made this distinct was this kind of love was modeled by God's love: "even as I have loved." This speaks of sacrificial love as Christ had demonstrated. The other difference is that "love your neighbor" is changed to "love one another." The love toward one another speaks primarily (but not only) to the love toward the brethren/believers as to whom this love is shown and expressed. This love can only be shown by the power and the working of the Holy Spirit and shows that they are truly His disciples.

- **1 John 3:14** We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

Verse 36

Jesus tells Peter that he can not follow Jesus to the cross, in death, or to Heaven at this time. However, Peter will follow Him later to death as history tells that Peter was crucified upside down. After His death, he would be in the presence of the Lord (**2 Corinthians 5:8**).

Verses 37-38

Peter states he wants to follow Christ now even unto death as he makes the bold statement that he would lay His life down for the Lord. It would be the Lord who would lay His life down for Peter. Jesus tells Peter that the rooster would not crow until Peter had denied Him three times. However, Jesus had prayed personally for Peter (Jesus prays for all who are His in **John 17**) that his faith would not fail. Although Peter was weak and showed a lack of courage and boldness, his faith would not ultimately fail as he was forgiven and restored by Christ. After Peter's denial and restoration, he was to strength his brothers and tend/shepherd Christ's sheep (**John 21:15-17**).

- **Luke 22:31-34** "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has ^ademande*d permission* to sift you like wheat; ³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." ³³ But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" ³⁴ And He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."

As Jesus is nearing His departure from His disciples and from this world, He instructs them that the mark that will let the world know they are His disciples is their love toward one another. The same is true for Christians today as God's word does not change. Christians should be the most merciful, gracious, forgiving, patient, and loving people as we have had the most mercy, grace, patience, and love shown upon us. Let us follow Christ and love as He has loved. Are we like Peter? Do we claim that we would be willing to lay our life down for Him, but at the first moment of opposition, difficulty, or persecution we run and deny Christ? Let us pray for boldness in our stand for Christ so that at no time do we hear what Peter heard: the rooster crow!