

Session 6: The Glory of Christ's Humble Love (John 13)

I. OVERVIEW

- A. The primary theme Jesus speaks to His disciples about, in **Jn. 13-17**, is the subject of God's love and glory. Jesus' main objective is to lead the Church into the revelation of God's divine love. It is our destiny to experience the glory that He possessed with His Father before the foundations of the earth. Our destiny is to be wrapped up into the eternal fellowship of the Godhead forever.
- 4...and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (1 Jn. 1:4)***
- B. The primary destiny and inheritance of the Church is to experience deep intimacy with the Trinity. We are called to an experiential union with God (intimacy) and unity with the saints. (Jn. 13:34; 14:11; 15:4-7, 9-10, 12; 17:10-11, 13, 21-23, 26). Interacting with the Trinity is the way forward.
- C. Jesus said that the purpose of His instruction in Jn 13-17 was to equip His followers to walk in victory under the growing global pressure. He instructed His disciples that in dialogue with the Godhead, our hearts will be filled with peace and joy to keeping us from falling way under pressure.
- 11"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you..." (Jn. 15:11)***
- 1"These things I have spoken to you, that you should not...stumble [fall away]." (Jn. 16:1)***
- 33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace ..." (Jn 16:33)***
- D. The Upper Room discourse is a blue print (pattern) and map (pathway) to the glory and destiny of the Church. Waiting on the Lord by interacting and responding to Him is key to making our hearts ready.
- "... for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." (Rev. 19:7)***
- E. Jesus prophesied a coming time of great pressure on the earth. In those days many will be gripped with four predominant negative emotions¹ due to a disconnect from Jesus through the lack of prayer (Mt. 26:41) and a disconnect (Rom. 11:25) from the plan and storyline of heaven—the gospel.
- F. Youthful resilience will not stand in the emerging crisis 2020 showed initial, emerging signs of deteriorating youthful resilience. In 2020, a larger-than-average amount of young adults (ages 18-24) reported signs of anxiety and depressive disorder (56%). Compared to all adults, young adults are more likely to report substance use (25% vs.13%) and suicidal thoughts (26% vs.11%).
- 30Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall ..." (Isa. 40:30)***
- G. The answer Isaiah gives to the end-time church is to live lives of "waiting" on the Lord, the experience of entering into the Trinitarian conversation. The Spirit calls the Church to her inheritance by experiencing God's love in the context of engaging with the Trinity in fellowship.

¹ Mike Bickle uses the acronym F.O.L.D for Fear (Lk 21:26), Offense (Mt 24:10), Lust (Lk 21:34) and Deception (Lk 21:8).

³*“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isa. 40:31)*

II. OUR GLORIOUS DESTINY IN THE GOSPEL

- A. As believers we have an indescribable destiny and inheritance. The Trinitarian fellowship is our destiny. The scripture shows us that God “brings us *out* to bring us *in*.” He transitions us into union.
- ¹*“... Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you ...” ¹*“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am...your exceedingly great reward.” (Gen. 12:1; 15:1)**
- ⁴ *“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself.” (Ex. 19:4)*
- B. “We shall never exhaust the wonder, the dazzlingly, enthralling drinking of limitless Beauty. Indeed, ‘eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor can we even imagine what God has prepared for those who love him’ (1 Cor. 2:9). The reason is that **H**e has prepared Himself, endless enthrallment. Heaven is eternal ecstasy.”² —Thomas Dubay
- ³⁴ *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (Jn. 13:34)*
- ²⁶ *“And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” (Jn. 17:26)*
- C. The Father’s plan is for a unified **C**hurch in union with the Godhead as **H**is witness. This unity will be according to the love and union between the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. The **C**hurch will walk in unified love **in the** way that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit walk in love **together**.
- ²³ *I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. (Jn. 17:23)*
- D. In John 17:6-26, Jesus prays and prophesies the future destiny of the **C**hurch –
1. **That** the **C**hurch would know the knowledge of God – 17:6
 2. **That** the **C**hurch would keep God’s word – 17:6
 3. **That** the **C**hurch would have full faith in Christ – 17:7-10
 4. **That** the **C**hurch would be unified through the knowledge of God – 17:11, 20-23
 5. **That** the **C**hurch would enter in to the fullness of joy – 17:13
 6. **That** the **C**hurch would be delivered and kept from evil and compromise – 17:15-19
 7. **That** the **C**hurch would experience deep experiential union with the **T**rinity – 17: 22-24
 8. **That** the **C**hurch would experience the fullness of God’s love for God – 17:26

² Thomas Dubay, *The Evidential Power of Beauty* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1999), 44.

- E. In **John 13**, Jesus shows us the standard of what is required. **John 14** focuses on the access we have to the **grace** of God through intimacy (1 Cor. 2:12). **John 15** focuses on how to engage the **Trinity** in intimacy. In **John 16**, we see the **Church** as a witness in a hostile world. **John 17** shows our glorious destiny.

26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them. Jn. 17:26

III. THE BEAUTY OF JESUS AS THE SERVANT OF ALL – JOHN 13

7 Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.” (Jn. 13:7)

- A. **John 13** is a prophetic parable that unveils God's humble love. Jesus displays the nature of His humble love towards God, His disciples, and His enemies. In **John 13**, Jesus shows His disciples that the nature of His ministry and leadership is forever established in divine humility. God's nature is humble.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, “who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. (Phil. 2:5-7)

- B. Key to **John 13** is **verse 7**. There is an unfolding of God's humility as Jesus administers the plan of redemption. I believe that God's humility is a divine attribute. The Humble God is most foreign to the human heart. The implications are significant both personally as well as globally.

10 ... hide in the dust, from the terror of the Lord and the glory of His majesty. ¹¹The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down ... the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. ¹²... shall come upon everything proud and lofty, upon everything lifted up (Isa. 2:10-12)

- C. The humility of Christ is revealed in the cross, His leadership in our lives, the administration of the agenda of God for the nations (Isa 49-55) and Jesus' leadership in the ages to come as the Servant of Rulers (Isa. 49:7). It is the reason for which He came and will come again: He comes to serve.

45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mk. 10:45)

37 “... when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. (Lk 12:37)

- D. A brief outline of John 13

1. The great betrayal – Jn. 13:1-2, 21-22
2. The Father's love for His Son – Jn. 13:3-4
3. Jesus unveils Himself as the Servant of the Lord – Jn. 13:5-6
4. The coming understanding of the humility of God – Jn. 13:7
5. Receiving Christ as our Servant – Jn.13:8-11

6. Christ our servant forever – Jn. 13:12
7. The humility of Christ as our example to follow – Jn. 3:13-20
8. Leaning on the Servant – Jn. 13:23-30
9. The servanthood of Christ and His suffering – Jn 13:31-33, 36-38
10. Command to walk in humble love – Jn 13:34-35

³⁴ ... *that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.* (Jn 13:34)