



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

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## **John 13:31-38**

### A Clear Display of the Evidence

When Judas left the room so did the heaviness, so did the darkness, and so did Satan. Jesus was now free to share with those who had ears to hear. In John 13:31-38, Jesus shared with His disciples words that, while they didn't grasp their impact in the moment, would define their behavior for the rest of their lives. The whole life of Jesus in the gospel of John, is presented as a glorifying of the Son, by the Father, while at the same time, of the Father by the Son. Jesus is glorified through His impending death on the cross, resurrection, and exaltation. The Father is glorified in the perfect obedience of the Son. From a human perspective, we're talking about humiliation, unimaginable suffering, and brutality, but from God the Father and God the Son's perspective it is the revelation of their glory! Jesus tells His disciples that He would only be with them a little while longer and where He was going they could not come. This was shocking and disturbing to the disciples. They had left everything and followed Him. Their lives had been radically transformed by being with Him and the last thing they wanted was to be without Him. Jesus gives them a new commandment that they were to love one another as He had loved them. The word "new" means new in quality, remarkable. The command to love was not new (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Leviticus 19:18). The newness of Jesus command is seen in two ways. First, there is a new standard. Jesus is the standard! Second, there's a new covenant being instituted by Jesus (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:24-26). The new qualitative difference now in the life of the believer is the Holy Spirit. While Jesus may be physically absent from the earth, God the Holy Spirit now indwells every believer and enables them to love with the love of Christ. That means, very practically, that a child of God submitted to the Holy Spirit has the ability to demonstrate the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit working in them. The result of this love is that the whole world will know you are My disciples as you display this love for one another (our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ). Our

love for one another should reflect the love God the Father and God the Son have for one another. We as Christians display the clarity of the gospel by how we love one another. Peter and the other disciples were still hung up on what Jesus said in verse 33, so Peter asks, "Lord, where are You going?" Peter didn't understand or approve of the answer Jesus gave so he says, "Lord, why can I not follow you, right now? I will lay down my life for you." Then, in another shocking statement in the upper room, Jesus predicts Peter's denial. As you seek to apply this passage to your life, as yourself these questions:

- **Is glorifying God the primary desire of my heart? Is His glory more important than my own selfish desires?** To glorify God means to make God look good. Is glorifying God of primary importance in your life privately, in your relationships, at work, at school, and in your neighborhood?
- **Does your life bring clarity to the gospel?** Some people think they bring clarity to the gospel by wearing a cross around their neck, or putting a bumper sticker on their car, or wearing Christian clothing. None of those things are wrong in and of themselves, but are worthless if there is not a new kind of love being demonstrated. A Holy Spirit inspired love! A love that reflects the love between God the Father and God the Son.

Pastor Matt