

## Parting Words: Connecting the Dots

John 13:31-38

Small Group Discussion

**Intro Questions** (try to get everyone involved in discussion):

- When you think of the word “glory,” what is the first word or image that comes to mind? (If you were in the service at Three Village Church on Sunday, try to recall and share what you wrote in response to this question).
  - In this week’s passage, Jesus tells his followers that they are about to see his glory, and how that impacts the way that they/we love.

**Pray:** Invite the Holy Spirit to be present and to guide your study and discussion of God’s word.

**Read John 13:31-38**, then discuss the following.

- Review what has happened so far in the Upper Room, to keep the immediate context in mind.
- What questions, themes, or observations jump out at you as you read this passage?
- What is the importance of the word “now” in Jesus’ statement in v. 31? Or to ask it another way, why did this statement have to wait for Judas’ departure?
- Why do you think Jesus uses the title, “Son of Man,” to speak of himself here, rather than simply saying, “Now I am glorified...”?
- On Sunday, we heard several definitions of the word glory, all of which come into play for understanding this passage. See how many your group can recall (they are below for reference):
  - Praise, honor, or distinction extended by common consent. “She deserves all the glory the media are giving her for her amazing philanthropy.”
  - Something that secures praise or renown. “The glory of a brilliant career in marketing made him a highly sought after speaker.”
  - A distinguishing quality or asset. “The glory of Long Island are its summers on the water.”
  - Great beauty or splendor. “The glory of the sunrise left me speechless.”
- In what way will the betrayal plan that is now in motion enable the true glory of Jesus to be on display?
- Read Exodus 33:17 - 34:7. Then read John 1:14-18.
  - Now, in light of these passages and Jesus’ statement in John 13:31, how is Jesus’ statement a fulfillment of what Moses saw and heard on the mountain?
  - How does this bring us the “grace and truth” that we need and long for?
- Pastor Josh mentioned on Sunday that most of us tend to find belonging or value either by seeking glory, or seeking love, or sometimes both. Which has tended to be the case in your journey?
- What do you think Jesus is saying about the Father in v. 32? Why is this important to us?
- Jesus makes similar statements in both vv. 33 and 36. Where is he going that they cannot come? Why can they not come?

- Why do you think that Peter claims (in v. 37) to be willing to lay down his life for Jesus, yet in the moment of testing, denies Jesus?
- Do you see any similarity between Peter's claim to perform for Jesus and similar claims that we make? What is Jesus still trying to get Peter to understand?
- In v. 34, Jesus issues a "new command." What aspect of his command is old, and what is new?
  - In what way does this command sum up all the preceding biblical commands?
  - How does this command provide a new standard for Christian relationships?
- In v. 35, Jesus says that if we can love one another in this way, we, as his followers, will be distinct. We will be known as disciples of Jesus.
  - Why will this kind of love make us uniquely recognizable?
  - Just thinking of our church, or even our small group, how do you think we are doing at loving one another in this way? Where do you see us doing it well? Where is there room for improvement?
- What is the connection between Jesus' statement about his glory, and his new commandment?
  - Do you agree or disagree with Josh's statement Sunday, that *where you see glory will determine how you love*?

**PRAYER:**

- If you haven't already shared about other particular needs in your life, be sure to do that, and pray for one another.
- Pray in response to what God has revealed to you in this discussion of his word.