

How Does Christ's Crucifixion Glorify God?

JOHN 13:30-38

John 13:30-38 ³⁰ So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night. ³¹ Therefore 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 will glorify Him immediately. ³³ "Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 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, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." ³⁶ Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later." ³⁷ Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You." ³⁸ Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.

The supper that Jesus shared with his 12 disciples is now coming to an end. Jesus sets the stage for the final chapter of what the Passover week was to accomplish in his own life being given for his sheep. But, for his life to be offered up, someone must put into motion the wheels that will carry the atoning sacrifice of Jesus to its completion. That person is Judas.

John 13:21-26 ²¹ ...Jesus... said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." ²² The disciples *began* looking at one another, at a loss *to know* of which one He was speaking. ²³ There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. ²⁴ So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking." ²⁵ He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus then answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, *the son* of Simon Iscariot.

After Judas was given the morsel, Satan then took up residence in Judas as he was now demon possessed.

John 13:27 ²⁷ After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

In this sense Jesus is addressing both Judas and Satan as they are now identified in the first person, 'you.' "What you do, do quickly."

The other thing worth noting in this incident is that Jesus makes it clear that Judas was not a true believer; not simply because Judas is about to betray Jesus, but because a true believer cannot become demon possessed.

Romans 8:8-11 ⁸ ...those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ ***But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.***

If the Spirit of God indwells one of His people it is not possible for the spirit of a demon to take up the same residence in that person. Only those who are in the flesh, that is those who are still dead in their trespasses and sins, (therefore without the Spirit of God) can be demon possessed.

For this reason, Judas was able to be demon possessed as Satan entered into him after he took the morsel from Jesus, sealing Judas to his father, Satan. In this way, this was Jesus giving Judas his cue to do what he must do quickly, as he pleases his father, Satan.

We who are in Christ are also sealed, but we are sealed by the Holy Spirit unto our heavenly Father, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:13-14 ¹³ In Him [Christ], you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

Though a believer is sealed in the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption, when Christ comes back for us, this does not mean that we cannot be influenced by demons and their teachings. This is what Jesus alludes to.

Matthew 7:15 ¹⁵ "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

The apostle John would give the same warning.

^{ESV} **1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

God's people are to be discerning as they grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, which can only come through studying the word of God, accurately handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 ¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

After Judas left the eleven with Jesus, our Lord turns his attention to the remaining disciples and delivers these words.

John 13:31-32 ³¹ Therefore 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 will glorify Him immediately.

This seems like an odd thing to say in light of the fact that Jesus will be on the cross only hours from this point.

In what way is Jesus glorified along with the Father, in the context of Judas betraying the Lord? We actually touched on this back when I was going through the previous chapter.

John 12:23-28 ²³ And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. ²⁶ "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. ²⁷ "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour '? But for this purpose I came to this hour. ²⁸ "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."

Both the Son and the Father are speaking of being glorified in the death of the Son of God. When I was teaching through this section in John 12:23 I didn't go into much detail as to what and how this glorification was going to work itself out, primarily because I knew we were coming to this section in chapter 13. So, let's dive a little deeper into what it means for both the Father and the Son to be glorified through Christ's death. For this we need to remember why it was that the Son of God took on flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. The angel Gabriel gives us the first clue.

Matthew 1:20-23 ²⁰ But when he [Joseph] had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for ***He will save His people from their sins.***" ²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

Jesus came into this world, not simply to make salvation a possibility, (as some teach that the gift may or may not be effectual, depending on one's faith) but as a certainty. He will save His people from their sins. But for this statement to

make any sense it must be placed into the context of the first promise that God would save a people for Himself. For this we must go to man's rebellion in the garden of Eden, after which God's judgment and salvation are announced.

Genesis 3:15 ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you [Satan] and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

The judgment is seen in the war between the two seeds; the salvation is seen in the seed of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent. This offspring is found in the Son of God promised to come through the seed of the woman, which takes us back to Mary.

Matthew 1:20-21 "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

So, when we talk about the Son and the Father being glorified through the death of Jesus Christ it is necessarily addressing the fulfillment of the mission upon which the Son was sent into this world to accomplish for the Father. And what was the will of the Father as it relates to the Son? This is the very thing we have seen all throughout the gospel of John, particularly John chapter 6, which answers the question as to why the Father has sent the Son, promised in the Garden.

John 6:37-39 ³⁷ "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. ³⁸ "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

Jesus makes it clear that the Father has given a people to the Son. When we talk about the gift of salvation, we usually define it in terms of the life that we are given by the Son.

Romans 6:23 ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

While it is true that we are given the free gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, we have a tendency to miss the most important gift that was given to the Son by the Father, and that is the gift of a people whom the Son came into this world to save. "He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

And who are these people? "All that the Father gives me." (John 6:37)

When we begin to understand the relationship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as it pertains to salvation, we can begin to appreciate what it

means for the Father and the Son to be glorified in the death of the Son of Man, as the Father's eternal decree is now being fulfilled in Jesus Christ's life, death and subsequent resurrection. This was an eternal plan devised in the God-head.

Ephesians 1:3-6 ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

The Father chose a people in the Son, before the foundation of the world. That was long before this world came into existence. In choosing a people for the Son, the Father had planned that man's salvation from sin would be a certainty, long before Adam sinned. So, this was not plan B, thought up after Adam's rebellion as many open-theists teach.

Rather, this was the Father's plan to give a gift to the Son, who would come into this world born of a virgin to save His people from their sins. This is why Paul gives the reason as to why God predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ. To what end? "...To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."

All of what the eternal God-head planned in eternity was done to the praise of the glory of His grace.

And what is Jesus announcing in our text back in John 13?

John 13:31-32 "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 will glorify Him immediately.

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are all glorified as the Son fulfills the Father's eternal plan to redeem a people, (given as gift by the Father to the Son) as the Son is about to bring the Father's eternal redemptive plan to a close on Mt. Calvary.

Salvation is not ultimately about our sins being forgiven, as important as that is for us. Salvation is ultimately about the glory of God. We who are in Christ are allowed to share in His glory to the degree that we are the recipients of the grace and mercy of a God who gave a gift to His Son.

We are that gift in Christ. But we are a gift that is meant to bring glory to the One who bestowed salvation to us in the Son.

Matthew 5:16 ¹⁶ "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

1 Corinthians 6:20 ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Jesus says that the Father will glorify the Son immediately in our text.

John 13:32 ³² if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately.

This is addressing the impending crucifixion where the Son will have his heel bruised according to God's judgment in the Garden of Eden. But this atoning sacrifice will crush the head of Satan as it will be through the death and victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ that will deliver the death blow to the curse and death itself.

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

As Jesus continues to address his disciples, he reminds them that the final chapter of the Passover, found in the atoning work of the Lamb of God, is going to temporarily mean the removal of the Lamb from their presence.

John 13:33 ³³ "Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

This statement was also part of a discussion that Jesus had with the Jews earlier in his ministry.

John 7:31-34 ³¹ But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, "When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, will He?" ³² The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him. ³³ Therefore Jesus said, "For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me. ³⁴ "You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come."

This was somewhat of a riddle for those who heard this statement from Jesus as their response was one of bewilderment by these words.

John 7:35-36 ³⁵ The Jews then said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? He is not intending to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He? ³⁶ "What is this statement that He said, 'You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come '?"

The disciples are not able to share in what only the Son can accomplish. No one but the Son can be crucified for the sins of the people given to him by the Father. In this way, Jesus is declaring that he and he alone, is able to travel this path on

which the Father has placed him. The disciples would not fully appreciate these words of Jesus until after his resurrection.

But as Jesus continues to teach his disciples about this most important event, he encourages them and prepares them for their role in furthering this hope found in the Lamb of God.

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Jesus is making it clear that we should love one another in the same way that he loved us. And how did he love us? Well, that's the issue facing the disciples during this supper. Jesus is about to give his life for the sheep.

John 10:14-15 ¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, ¹⁵ even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

Just as the Father sent His son to die for the sheep whom he gave to the Son, in like manner we who are his sheep, must love in this way so as to bring glory to God.

You'll notice in our text that this is not a request by Jesus. This is a commandment. In other words, this is not an option for any of Christ's sheep to love the brethren.

^{NAU} **1 John 3:23** This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

The interesting thing about this commandment is that it infers a resistance to such obedience. But it also tells us that such a command is not only declared by the Son of God, it is a command that is no longer written on stone tablets, but on the hearts of Christ's sheep. This is why Jesus can say this is a new commandment. And yet it's not. It was a commandment given to Israel during the time of Moses.

^{NAU} **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.

So, in what way is it new? The word new in this text can be literally translated, fresh. In this way, an old commandment takes on a new or fresh meaning to the recipients of this command. And the recipients of this command who have placed their faith in Christ have a new or fresh heart that God has given them to fulfill this command.

This was spoken to the nation of Israel through the prophet Ezekiel as an eschatological picture of a new covenant people.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 ²⁵ "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

The prophet Jeremiah also addressed how God would cause His people to not only hear the commands of God, but have hearts that were willing to love and obey those commands.

Jeremiah 31:31-33 ³¹ "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³ "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

The apostle Paul identified how this new heart given by the Spirit of God beats for the Lord and manifests itself in a love for the brethren.

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 ² You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; ³ being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

You and I in Christ no longer have a law written on tablets of stone that can be tossed to the side. We now have God's law written on our hearts where His Spirit enables us to accomplish His will to His glory. Thus, we have no excuse not to follow where our Shepherd leads.

John 10:27-30 ²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ "I and the Father are one."

Do we really appreciate the love that Christ demonstrated at the cross for us? This is what Jesus is proposing to his disciples in that upper room during the time of the Passover as he gives them the command to love each other, to which Peter responds.

John 13:36-37 ³⁶ Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later." ³⁷ Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You."

Peter did not grasp the significance of the place where Jesus was about to go. Only the Messiah could walk that path to Calvary to redeem a people for Himself. But as the Lord would lay down his life for his sheep in a redemptive sense, Peter would lay down his life in a sanctifying sense as the Spirit of God would use him to feed Christ's sheep.

This is what Jesus infers when he says, "you will follow later." But Peter is still in the protective mode as he assures the Lord that no one will get between him and the Master without Peter first giving his life for Jesus.

And though I'm sure Peter was quite sincere about his desire to follow Jesus, the Lord will prophesy of Peter's actions to the contrary despite his good intentions.

John 13:38 ³⁸ Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.

In the text there is no response from Peter to this statement. It may be that the impetuous Peter was now without words at this point, not knowing how to respond to the One who knows all men's hearts.

Fortunately for Peter, even his denial will be used by Jesus as a teaching moment after his resurrection. The bottom line is this. If you have placed your faith in Christ as Lord and Savior you can be assured that His Spirit, who has sealed you for the day of redemption, will also empower you to live for Christ and glorify him as you have love for him and the brethren. I'll end with Paul's exhortation to us as he exhorts the church in Rome.

Romans 15:5-6 ⁵ Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.