

Readings

Scripture

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

- John 13:31-35 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

Love for others really begins, continues, and is daily motivated by love for God. When his purposes are more important than your desires, when his glory is more valuable to you than your temporary moments of glory, and when his agenda activates you more than your plans for you, you will be freed from your bondage to self-love and be freed to love others. It is really true. Our relationships need more than horizontal fixing. They need vertical rescue, and for that there is the ever-sufficient grace of a willing and patient Savior.

- Paul David Tripp, *New Morning Mercies*, August 9

Do not hesitate to love and to love deeply. You might be afraid of the pain that deep love can cause. When those you love deeply reject you, leave you, or die, your heart will be broken. But that should not hold you back from loving deeply. The pain that comes from deep love makes your love ever more fruitful. It is like a plow that breaks the ground to allow the seed to take root and grow into a strong plant. Every time you experience the pain of rejection, absence, or death, you are faced with a choice. You can become bitter and decide not to love again, or you can stand straight in your pain and let the soil on which you stand become richer and more able to give life to new seeds.

- Henri Nouwen, *The Inner Voice of Love* (p. 59)

Sermon Outline

Lay Your Love On The Track

John 13:31-35

Table Talk in an Upper Room

Brad Anderson

The glory of God's love is revealed uniquely in Jesus Christ..

How does Jesus Christ reveal the glory of God's love?

Through his unique suffering... (John 13:31-32)

Through his unique passage... (John 13:33)

Through his followers, uniquely... (John 13:34-35)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- If you knew that you were about to die, how would you break the news to your close friends? What would you do if your friends tried to deny it, or couldn't handle it?
- Why do you think Jesus waited until Judas had gone to share what he does here?
- When you think about the word "glory" what images come to your mind?
- What is glorious about the cross?
- The life of Jesus creates a unique passage, an entrance and the only way to God. What is unique about where Jesus is going and what he is about to do for the disciples and why is it that we cannot go with him in this unique way?
- From his example in 13:1-17, how would you define what Jesus means by love?
- From John 3:16 and 13:1, why is love the best evidence that they are Jesus' followers?
- When you consider our calling to love as Jesus has loved, what does this mean in practical terms for you? What contexts present the greatest difficulty for you to love another person as Jesus has called you?