

John 13b

21-22 12:27 None of them had a clue! Looking back it seems obvious, but it is only after knowing the final outcome that statements and expressions are interpreted correctly. Judas must have been a superb hypocrite, for no one could guess it was the trusted treasurer.

The meal would have been at a U shaped table. The host reclined in the outer middle, John apparently was on His right and Judas on His left, the place of honor. People reclined on their left elbow so as to eat with the right hand. Jesus ability to communicate and hand bread to Judas means he was most likely in that seat of honor, all the more reason not to suspect him. Did Jesus invite him there as an appeal to not betray Him?

23 – 25 Most believe this to be John, though some suggest Lazarus. Bold Peter wants to know who Jesus is talking about. John leans back into Jesus' chest and asks who it is.

26-27 Giving a special morsel to another is also a sign of respect and honor. Even today Arabs recline in this fashion and it is an honor to receive a special piece of meal from the host. This was the final appeal to Judas, but instead of surrendering to Jesus' love, he allowed Satan to enter him. What a warning for us. Continued rejection of the love of Jesus is catastrophic! The final opportunity was squandered, and now Jesus is ready to face the battle that lay before Him. "Let's get it over with, do it quickly!"

28-30 The Jews had a custom of helping the poor with Passover expenses. They wanted all to be able to celebrate. All but John thought Jesus was referring to some charitable giving. This must have been a regular thing Jesus had Judas do.

31-32 Barkley describes four different kinds of glory. 1. The **glory of the cross** has come, the glory of laying down your life for others. On the battle field the real glory is not to the survivors but those who gave all. 2. In Jesus God has been glorified by **His perfect obedience** to the Father. One can give no greater honor to another than to trust them with utter obedience, even unto death. See John 14:13. 3. In Jesus, God glorifies Himself. John 17:1 Through the incarnation and the cross, God shows how great His love is for man. We may have feared Him without those expressions, but in them we find a love draws our hearts to respond with love. 3. God will glorify Jesus. The immediate glory was the cross, but that was to be followed by **the glory of resurrection, ascension, and the defeat of all enemies**. 4. The world will see His **unveiled glory** when He returns. See 12:23,28; 17:5; Revelation 21:23

33 –35 Jesus final request to His disciples was to love each other like He loved them. How did He love them? He loved them without limit. He would go to the cross if that was what it took. He loved them as they were. He lived with them for three years and saw the good, the bad and the ugly, yet He loved them. He loved them in spite of their failures. He knew they would not stick by Him when danger came, but He still loved them. That is the kind of love He commands us to have for each other. If we only love those who love us we have not demonstrated the love of Christ. The love He demonstrated cost everything and was fixed on imperfect beings.

It is that kind of love that marks us as being true disciples. That is what the world will use as measure of our authenticity. When the world sees fighting divided religious people, it instinctively knows it is not witnessing disciples of Jesus of Nazareth.

36 Peter was not able to follow Jesus to the cross, yet, but he would in the future be strong enough by the grace of God.

37-38 We often think we are stronger and more resolute than we actually are. When our life is threatened, the mind goes into overtime justifying excuses for not dying to self and pleasure to serve God. Jesus knew Peter's heart. He did not condemn Him, He just warned Him and gave Him a promise. "Someday you will be able to make good on that claim, not now." Peter needed what Christ had come to give, the Holy Spirit. Without that empowerment the flesh will always rule in the moment of crisis. Acts 1:8

Key point: Love others as Jesus loves you.