



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Jesus is Glorified through Selfless Love May 1, 2022

John 13:31-35

⁴³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him,^[a] God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. ³³ "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

1. "I wish I knew then what I know now." Can you give an example of how present knowledge would have helped you deal with a past experience? **Answers will vary (e.g. present self-awareness vs. high school insecurity; Youtube video training vs. past botched repairs; experience gained in dealing with death, trauma, sickness, etc.)**
2. If the disciples had known on Good Friday what they learned on Easter evening, would it have changed their Good Friday? How? **They likely would have still been saddened/shocked by Jesus' death. But they would not have been confused or afraid because of it. Knowing that Jesus' death and resurrection was God's promised plan would have given them confidence in God's promises, awe for Christ's commitment, and gratitude for his sacrifice, etc.**
3. When you think of God's glory, what comes to mind? **Initially, Jesus' miracles, transfiguration, ascension, Judgment Day**

4. What was Jesus referring to when he said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified"? **Jesus is looking ahead to his suffering and death on the cross. Only in and through the crucified Christ can any of us see God's glory and give God glory.**

5. Agree/disagree: Jesus was humbled, not glorified, by his crucifixion. **Yes, during his crucifixion (actually, from his conception to his burial), Jesus humbled himself by setting aside the full display of his divine glory. And what he endured on the cross was humiliating, in human terms. However, the fact that he willingly offered himself, in obedience to his Father and so that sinners could become right with God and be glorified in heaven, makes Jesus' death truly glorious, in the eyes of believers.**

6. How does Jesus' "glory" on the cross impact your desire for glory? **We are tempted to glorify ourselves by stepping into the spotlight, bragging, putting people down, taking pride in others' service to us. But Jesus' glory underscores the value/glory of selfless service. We can find glory not in what we do, but in what Jesus has done for us.**

7. Agree/disagree: There is nothing new about the command, "Love one another." **In the OT, God commands, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Lev. 19:18). However, here Jesus adds, "As I have loved you." Jesus' life and death provides the model and the motivation for our love for one another. Jesus' love is unique in that it is for people who have not earned/deserved his love. It is unconditional, sacrificial, agape love.**

8. What does a Christ-like love look like in your life? **Answers will vary. An opportunity to confess where we've fallen short and where we can/will improve with God's help.**

9. Why do you think that Jesus said that love for one another is the defining characteristic of his disciples? **It is something that is uncommon, unnatural in our world, yet still noticed/appreciated by others. It is a Spirit-worked quality in the lives of believers.**

(10. What would be an appropriate prayer to offer on behalf of a Seminary student who is 3 weeks away from receiving his first call into the ministry?) **Put yourself in his shoes, married with 3 children, with a father already in heaven, presenting himself to be sent anywhere in the world, to serve God's people with the Gospel. Pray for Tommy and his family.**