Jesus Bids His Disciples Farewell and Prepares Them for the Events of the Cross (John 13:31-38)

1. Jesus prepares His disciples for His departure (vv.31-35)
   1. With an interpretation of the cross in terms of glory (vv.31-32)
      1. The mutual glorification of the Father and the Son through the cross (v.31)
         1. The glorification of the Son of Man in the cross (*e.g.,* 12:23, 32; Rev. 5:5-6)
         2. The glorification of the Father in Christ (*e.g.,* 17:4)

*“In all the creatures, indeed, both high and low, the glory of God shines, but nowhere has it shone more brightly than in the cross, in which there has been an astonishing change of things, the condemnation of all men has been manifested, sin has been blotted out, salvation has been restored to men; and, in short, the whole world has been renewed, and everything restored to good order.” (Calvin)*

* + 1. The immediate exaltation of the Son by the Father following His cross-work (v.32; *e.g.,* 17:4-5)
  1. With an explanation of His impending departure from His disciples (v.33; cf. 7:33-34; 8:21)
  2. With a new commandment for His disciples while He is away (vv.34-35)
     1. The new mandate for Christ’s disciples (v.34; cf. Matt. 22:37-40)
        1. It is a new commandment in that love is to be directed toward disciples of Christ (“one another”).
        2. It is a new commandment in that love is to be patterned after and motivated by Christ’s love (“as I love you”).
     2. The defining mark of Christ’s disciples (v.35; *e.g.,* 1 John 4:12)
     3. Application
        1. Know that this is a humbling mandate

“*The more we recognize the depth of our own sin, the more we recognize the love of the Saviour; the more we appreciate the love of the Saviour, the higher his standard appears; the higher his standard appears, the more we recognize in our selfishness, our innate self-centeredness, the depth of our own sin. With a standard like this, no thoughtful believer can ever say, this side of the Parousia, ‘I am perfectly keeping the basic stipulation of the new covenant.’” (Carson)*

* + - 1. Remember that this is a joy-giving mandate
      2. Examine your life for this mark

1. Jesus prepares Peter for his denial (vv.36-38)
   1. By explaining Peter’s present inability to follow Him to death (v.36; *e.g.,* 12:25-26; 21:18-19)
   2. By exposing Peter’s over-confident resolve (vv.37-38)