



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #283
Thursday... Day of Instruction and Arrest:
The Last Supper

Jesus' New Love Command

JN 13.31-32, 34-35

=====

³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, *“Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² Since God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.*

³⁴ “A new command I give you: You must keep on loving one another. As I have loved you, so I command you to continually love one another. ³⁵ If you keep on loving one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples because of this.”

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	An Upper Room in Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	D. Thursday: Day of Instruction and Arrest
	The Last Supper
Title	Jesus' New Love Command

COMMENT:

Jesus had demonstrated his kind of love by the way he had loved Judas to the end. Now, he gave a new command to his disciples regarding that love. This was the most difficult, yet attainable commandment ever spoken. It is the defining mark of true followers of Jesus. Why is this?

When Judas left the upper room Jesus immediately began talking about glory. There were two occasions when Jesus prayed about revealing his Father's glory (JN 12.28; 17.4-5), and this one instance when he spoke of it (13.31-32). In these five verses, Jesus used the verb "glorify" eight times, and the noun "glory" once.

In addition, the Father spoke the verb "glorify" twice in JN 12.28 in an audible voice from heaven, for a total of eleven uses of "glorify." This is one of the most intense repetitions of a word for emphasis in all the Scriptures. It is a big deal. For Jesus, his death was all about the glorifying God. But how would he do this?

Love.

Jesus was convinced that through the revelation of God's love for his enemies and his friends demonstrated in the cross, God's nature as love would be revealed in the most powerful way in the history of the universe, and this would "glorify" God by demonstrating the innate character of the Trinity. Jesus' death was a revelation of God's kind of love on every level, in every way. We might say that it was the most loving act in history, and therefore the most God-glorifying event in history. This was how Jesus saw it.

Part of the glory of God's love revealed in Jesus' death would be his love for his own. He would die as a personal substitute for every person who ever lived, or will live, who have all lived as his enemies through unbelief. He loved each one of us personally when he died. He prayed for us all. He gave himself for each of us so completely that if we were the only person ever to live--the single member of the human race besides him--he would have lived and died in just the same way for us as an individual.

Jesus **"first loved us."** Now he gave us all a new command. The command to love itself was not new. Jesus gave the old command--the second greatest command in the Law--a NEW qualifier. "Keep on loving each other as I have first loved you."

In one sense, this is impossible. No one loves like God loves. There is no human love that comes close to God's omnipotent, omniscient love. How can Jesus give us such an impossible qualifier, when he knows how sinful and selfish and weak we really are?

The impossible qualifier is also our great enabler. Jesus was confident that he loves each of us powerfully enough to fill us so full of his love that it overflows out of us as HIS love toward others. He really believed this! **"As I have first loved you"** gives us the ability to **"keep on loving each other"** because he NEVER stops loving us enough to reach out to others through us with that love.

This is the glory of HIS love--it is great enough to love us, and love through us to the uttermost--unconditionally. THIS kind of love, demonstrated through the cross, now flows through us--in spite of our sinful selfishness--and proves to the world that HE is love, and that we truly belong to him. The glory of the love demonstrated in the death of Jesus must be on permanent display on this earth through the way we love each other--just like him.

APPLICATION:

Jesus said it clearly. Unconditional love is the way people will know that we belong to him. Not going to church, or reading our Bibles, or the exterior forms of Christianity. Anybody can do those things. Only God loves his enemies unconditionally, and gives everything to do it. This is his signature, and it is what the world needs to see in us, just as they saw it in Jesus.

"Look at how Jesus loved him!" (JN 11.36) That was what they said about Jesus. It is what they need to say about us, too.

Jesus commanded us to **"keep on loving each other."** Individual, heroic acts of love are great, but Jesus was talking about persistence that last forever, that never gives up, that never dies out. It is that troublesome "unconditional" thing again.

Honestly. Is there anyone you have given up on loving any more?

Is that how Jesus first loved you? What are you going to do about that person?

When will you let Jesus love them through you again? How?