

## The End is the Beginning!

# DAY THIRTY-FOUR 34

### TIME ALONE WITH GOD

John 13:1-38

*This is either the third or fourth Passover since Christ began His public ministry. His mission had always been to come and give Himself - this was the essence of His Kingdom. He knew it was time to deliver Himself for crucifixion.*

*Belief in Christ made His disciples clean before God. Though their feet still became dirty from walking through the world, it didn't change their heart-clean status.*

*If the Son of God would wash another man's feet, then we should be willing to serve others.*

Before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. As they ate together the devil already had put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him. Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God, and was going back to God, rose from supper, and laid aside His garments. And taking a towel, He wrapped it around Himself.

Then He poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was wrapped. He came to Simon Peter and he said to Him, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand later." Peter said to Him, "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Then Lord, wash not my feet only, but also my hands and my head." Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed only needs to wash his feet, and is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who was betraying Him. For this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."

And so when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments, and sat down at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; neither is one who is sent greater than the one who sent

*For some reason, the Father places a high value on the suffering that comes from betrayal. Perhaps it is because the human condition has allowed billions of opportunities for Him to display His grace by giving His Son.*

him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but the Scripture must be fulfilled, 'He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.' From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives who I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. Leaning close to Jesus was one of His closest followers, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is He is speaking about." And leaning on Jesus' breast, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "The one for whom I shall dip the piece of bread and give it to him." So when He had dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

None of those eating at the table knew why He had said this to him. Some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we need for the feast;" or that he should give something to the poor. So after receiving the bread he went out immediately; and it was night. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately.

"Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You shall seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, I now say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you shall follow later." Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, before a rooster crows you will deny Me three times."

**THE TRUE VINE**

John 14:1-15:10

“Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many beautiful dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And you know where I am going.”

Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you know Him and have seen Him.”

Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; or believe on Me because of the works themselves.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in My name, I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. “If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever. The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you will know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will see Me no more; but you will behold Me; because I live, you shall live also. In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will reveal Myself to him.”

Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, what has happened that You are going to reveal Yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our dwelling place with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me. These things I have spoken to you, while living with you.

*God is in the business of causing people to grow. Spiritual nourishment is offered to anyone who is willing to stay close to God. This connection of Vine, branches, and spiritual nourishment is a big part of how Christ-followers grow.*

*Many in history have speculated about the nature of God's Spirit. Is He a person? How does He differ from the rest of the Trinity? It is important to get to know the Holy Spirit as our Helper. Jesus was leaving the earth, and the Holy Spirit is given the role of disclosing the Father to us, and Helping us to live lives that are in harmony with God's heart.*

*There were many things to say and little time to say them. Jesus would reveal what His followers could bear now and wait to say more face to face after He had risen from the dead.*

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things, and bring to your heart, mind, and memory all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have celebrated, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it comes to pass, that when it comes to pass, you may believe. I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father charged Me, I do now as He commanded. Get up and let us go from here.

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinekeeper. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.”

John 15:11-16:20

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, when one lays down his life for his friends. You are My friends, if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me. But I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you. This I command you, that you love one another.

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘a slave is not greater than his

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## DAY THIRTY-SIX

master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for the sake of My name, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. But they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, 'They hated Me without a cause.' When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

"These things I have spoken to you, that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. These things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me. But these things I have spoken to you, that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you about them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

"But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And when He comes He will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged."

### THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative. Whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take what is Mine, and will reveal it to you. All things that the Father has belong to Me; that is why I said that He takes of Mine, and will reveal it to you. Soon you will no longer see Me; and in a little while, you will see Me."

Some of His disciples therefore said to one another, "What is He is telling us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and then a little while later, you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" So they were saying, "What is this 'little while'? We do not know what He is talking about." Jesus knew that they wished to question Him, and He said to them, "Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me?' and again a little while, and you will see Me'? Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned to joy."



John 16:21-17:19

“Whenever a woman is in labor she has sorrow, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she forgets the pain, because of the joy that a child has been born into the world. You, too, now have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one takes your joy away from you. And in that day you will ask Me no questions. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you shall ask the Father for anything, He will give it to you in My name. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

“These things I have told you figuratively; an hour is coming when I will speak no more to you in figurative language, but will tell you the Father’s word plainly. In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say that I will make request of the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from the Father. I came out from the Father, and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again, and returning to the Father.”

His followers said, “Now You are speaking clearly, and are not using a figure of speech. Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You. By this we believe that You came from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

These things Jesus spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all mankind, so to all You have given Him, He may give eternal life. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, glorify Me together with Yourself, Father, with the glory which I had with You before the world was even formed. I demonstrated Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

“Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them, and truly understood

*Jesus was very intimate with His Father, and totally immersed in His purpose. He knew that His sacrifice was going to save millions of souls, and bring honor and glory to His Father's house!*

*In some way Jesus' followers were to be marked by truth to the point where they were "set apart" for the special purposes of God.*

*Once again Jesus refers to His existence before the world was formed. This is barely understood within our culture's view of Jesus.*

that I came out from You, and they believed that You sent Me. I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.

“And I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them, and not one of them perished but the son of hell, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves.

“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Set them apart in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I set Myself apart, that they themselves also may be set apart in truth.

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but also for those who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one. I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You love Me.

“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and they have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known; that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”