

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him,^a God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

REFLECTION

On this 5th Sunday of Easter, our gospel reading takes us back to the night Jesus was arrested. It has just been revealed that Judas will betray Jesus, and Jesus' response seems totally out of place: "Now the Son of Man has been glorified." We typically give God the glory for our successes and achievements, not our disappointments. **When have you been let down by someone you invested a lot of time and energy into? What was your reaction?**

Jesus teaches us through his reaction that He trusts that God is still at work and there is an opportunity for hope and redemption. The words he tells his disciples, to "love one another," are key words for them to hear during this time when they might otherwise naturally pull away from one another due to the stress and uncertainty of the circumstances. **How does Jesus' reaction show us how to choose love when it would be easier to give into pessimism or give up caring about a situation?**

Because God first loved us in Jesus Christ, we have the power to love others. Think about all the people in your life, or even people you don't know, who seem impossible to love. Jesus loved unconditionally, without counting the costs or expecting people to change after He loved them. Imagine what the world would look like if the people around us could feel loved without strings attached. **Where in your life can you express love more unconditionally, cancelling any debt to others?**

We don't need to expect for the world to change before we choose to love it. Our calling as followers of Christ is to love anyway and trust that God is still at work. Think of all the ways you can live into these words this week, where you live, work, and play: **The world will know Christians by our love.**