



# Calvary of Albuquerque

A Brand New Way of Life! - John 13:31-35

From the Series, Believe:879

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## MESSAGE SUMMARY

To follow Jesus is to have a brand new way of life. When these twelve men sitting around the dinner table started hanging around Jesus, they had no idea just how new and different their lives would become. At this final meal on that last night, they were still learning just how new their lives should be. (Jesus can still teach old dogs new tricks!) As present-day followers of Christ, let's consider three aspects of life that become new once we become His disciples.

## OUTLINE

- I. A New Perspective (vv. 31-32)
- II. A New Relationship (v. 33)
- III. A New Commandment (vv. 34-35)
  - A. How We Should Love
  - B. Why We Should Love



## Pondering the Principles

1. How does the future glory affect your daily grind? How would those closest to you describe your goals in life—*what you really live for*?
2. What identifying marks do Christians display today? If Christians did love one another in a radical way, how do you think the world would react?
3. What are *you* best known for?

## DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
  - A. Disciples and people in general are naïve about defining what it means to follow Christ—to be a disciple
    1. Many think you add Jesus as another component to your life
    2. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)
    3. A Christian is a brand new person, made new by Christ with a brand new way of life.
  - B. Background
    1. Last Supper; Upper Room Discourse
    2. Judas has left the room; Jesus concentrates on the remaining, authentic disciples; He tells them what is going to be new about their future
- II. A New Perspective (vv. 31-32)
  - A. Believers are born again (see John 3:3)
  - B. Jesus switches from speaking about the betrayal and the betrayer to being glorified
    1. Looking beyond the cross, when He is received up into heavenly glory
      - a. Soon Jesus will be arrested, tried, beaten, mocked and crucified
      - b. After all the pain mankind could give; Jesus will be home
      - c. *Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'* "Having said this, He breathed His last. (Luke 23:46)
      - d. "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)
      - e. Following Christ should give us this perspective
        - i. We often look at the immediate not the ultimate; we consider how hard the road is instead of where that road is leading: heaven
        - ii. You can be so earthly minded you aren't doing any good
        - iii. Walk through this world responsibly, but get the view ultimately
      - f. Joni Eareckson Tada
        - a. In diving accident: quadriplegic
        - b. Looks past the wheelchair to future

- c. "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18)

## 2. Looking at the cross

- a. As horrible as the separation from the Father was and the physical pain was, it opens the door of salvation
- b. "Bringing many sons to glory" (Hebrews 2:10)
- c. Brings glory to the Father; it was His plan to send the Son.
- d. "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." (John 17:4-5)
- e. "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:24)
- f. As followers of Christ we need a new gaze and a new goal.
  - i. It is not about us; it is about Him and His glory
  - ii. It is not about my happiness; it is about His glory
  - iii. It is not about how I feel; it is about His glory
- g. "Many Christians are only 'Christaholics' and not disciples at all. Disciples are cross-bearers; they seek Christ. Christaholics seek happiness. Disciples dare to discipline themselves, and the demands they place on themselves leave them enjoying the happiness of their growth. Christaholics are escapists looking for a shortcut to nirvana. Like drug addicts, they are trying to "bomb out" of their depressing world. There is no automatic joy. Christ is not a happiness capsule; He is the way to the Father. But the way to the Father is not a carnival ride in which we sit and do nothing while we are whisked through various spiritual sensations."—Calvin Miller

## III. A New Relationship (v. 33)

- A. In a relationship with others, we hear their audible voice, see their body language and facial expressions;
  - 1. That is the kind of relationship Jesus had with the disciples.
  - 2. That relationship was about to change
- B. Little children
  - 1. Jesus was host of the Passover meal; acting as the father would act toward His family
  - 2. Reveals Jesus' tender care and compassion
- C. Little while
  - 1. 2 hours later He was arrested; the next day crucified; 3 days later raised from the dead; 40 days later ascended into heaven
  - 2. It would be too much for the disciples to know that we would wait on His return for 2,000 years.
- D. Up to that point their relationship had been in the flesh; now it will be by faith—a great advantage.
  - 1. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you" (John 16:7)
  - 2. Up to this point, the presence of Jesus was localized
  - 3. Now He lives inside every believer; promises the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will take residence in every believer.
  - 4. "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)
  - 5. Now the relationship is universal
- E. Relationship of a disciple is one not of sight, but of faith
  - 1. "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)
  - 2. We long for a relationship like the disciples had
  - 3. One day we will have that kind of relationship.
- F. Crabs when they are molting are vulnerable between shells
  - 1. They won't grow unless they get rid of the old shell and grow a new one
  - 2. It is uncomfortable for them
  - 3. We are like that when tossed and tumbled through life we want to depend on someone or something; God wants us to lean on Him and trust in Him by faith

## IV. A New Commandment (vv. 34-35)

- A. Not a new Commandment
  - 1. "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord." (Leviticus 19:18)
  - 2. καινός - Kainos - new (not by age), fresh; a fresh commandment
- B. How We Should Love
  - 1. ἀγαπάω - Agapao - love; not the love of feeling, love of the will
    - a. A mature love
    - b. Doesn't mean liking
  - 2. The benchmark: as Jesus loves
    - a. Sacrificial - "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13)
    - b. Unconditional - "Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." (Luke 23:34)
  - 3. When Jesus loves, He doesn't love only lovely people; He loves people who don't love Him back.
  - 4. Loving like Jesus loves
    - a. impossible on your own
    - b. As a disciple following Christ, He will never give you an impossible command. If he gives the command, He will give you the ability to do it.
    - c. As a disciple you have an unlimited reservoir and capacity to love.
      - i. "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Romans 5:5)
      - ii. If God's love can flow into our hearts, He will make sure His love can flow out of our hearts.
      - iii. No one in our circle of relationships should ever be loved starved.
- C. Why We Should Love
  - 1. All will know we are his disciples by our love for one another
    - a. Jesus is giving the world permission to judge us

- b. The world looks at our lives to say we are real, authentic. The love is the evidence
  - c. We remind people of God
- 2. Love for one another
  - a. Love fellow believers, they will know you are the real deal
  - b. Like looking at a happy home and wanting to be there

V. Application

- A. Ask God for a new set of eyes; a new way of looking at things
- B. Embrace the weaning process as he takes us to a place of just trusting in Him fully.
- C. Learn to measure your following of Christ by love (not by how many people love you, but by how many people you love)
- D. The apostle John told followers over and over to love one another. "Because it is the Lord's command, and if this alone be done, it is enough."

Greek Terms: καινός - Kainos -new (not by age), fresh

Figures Referenced: Calvin Miller; Marcel de Leclure

Cross References: Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 18:20; Luke 23:34; Luke 23:46; John 3:3; John 15:13; John 16:7; John 17:4-5; Romans 5:5; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 2:10; Hebrews 12:2