



JOURNEY with JESUS

And it Was Night... So You Must Love Each Other

Mat Dusza

John 13:30

And it was night...

John 13:34

As I have loved you, so you must love each other.

This passage starts off where Jesus is overwhelmed with sadness about his betrayal. Once Judas took the bread and left, the chain of events of his arrest and crucifixion were now in play.

Interestingly, in the middle of the events that are unfolding by the moment, John pens the words, “As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.” At first, “and it was night” seems a little out of place and quite random. However, taking in that John’s gospel brings to the surface the theme of darkness in the world and Jesus being the light, this short sentence must be considered with some more thought.

We know the moment that Judas took the bread, Satan entered his heart (v. 27). This was the final effort for darkness to destroy the light. This darkness would scatter His disciples. This darkness would torture and crucify Jesus in an attempt to destroy that light. At that moment, Jesus knew that these events were now in motion. So, what did he do? While being troubled in spirit, Jesus gathers his beloved disciples and commands them to love. To show the world that we can love each other no matter what and no matter how dark life is.

Even though the light is reduced to embers, through love, those embers are fanned into a raging fire. Lighting the darkness to where it cannot hide!

By trusting his love, we (his disciples, his church) are now born into light. So we must offer each other, and the world, the love of Jesus Christ that has already overcome the greatest darkness of all.

Questions

- In dark times, how can I trust in the love of Christ?
- How can I love his church as he loves us?
- How can we, his church, shine his light in those dark places of life?