

Study Notes and Questions for John 13 (Part 2) :21-38

- Based on your reading of **verse 21**, what does it appear Jesus was troubled about?
- Knowing that the disciples were uncertain about what Jesus was talking about when He spoke of one who would betray Him, what does that tell you about how Jesus had been treating Judas, even though He knew Judas was the betrayer?
- Why do you think Jesus predicted the betrayal to His disciples in a veiled manner?
- Why does Jesus speak of glory in **verses 31 and 32**?
- What is new about the commandment given in **13:34**? (Hint: the answer is found in the verse itself.)
- How does the footwashing that occurred earlier help to explain this commandment?
- Why is this command so crucial for Christians to keep (13:35)?
- How do you think Christians have done at keeping this commandment? What do we need to change to do better?
- What one truth from the teaching in John 13:21–38 have you been working to apply this week?

Notes: The Date of Passover

According to the official calendar of the temple authorities, the beginning of Passover was apparently Friday evening in that year. The Jewish leaders had not yet eaten the Passover on Friday morning when they were having Jesus condemned (18:28). They wanted Jesus executed before the Sabbath and the festival week began, because trying and executing a criminal during the feast was irreligious. Thus it came about that Jesus died on Friday afternoon shortly before the Passover lambs were slaughtered in the temple, graphically fulfilling John the Baptist's prophecy in 1:29.

However, the Synoptics make it clear that the meal Jesus ate with His disciples on Thursday evening was the Passover (Luke 22:7–13). Jesus was determined to eat this Passover with His friends before His death (Luke 22:15–16). Perhaps because He knew He must be arrested before the official Passover, He seems to have celebrated it a day ahead. Several sects, including the community at Qumran, disagreed with the official calendar and routinely ate their Passover a day or so before the official date. They had to do without a lamb (the Gospels mention no lamb at this meal) because a lamb could be eaten only if it was slaughtered by the priests in the temple on the day they recognized. But Jews who were anywhere but Jerusalem also had to do without lambs so this was no great hardship.

This is the explanation given by L.L. Morris in his commentary of John, p774–785, for why the Synoptics and John seem to differ on the date of Passover.