

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 11:13 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study

As the text of our lesson on John 13:21-38 begins, we see Jesus "troubled in spirit" over the fact that one of His disciples was about to betray Him! This isn't the first time the same term ("tarasso" in the Greek) is used to describe Jesus's emotional state during the last days of His earthly ministry. He had this same "troubled spirit" in reaction to all the weeping taking place by Mary and Martha upon the death of Lazarus, as He approached his tomb (in 11:33), as well as in coming to grips with the fact that His own "hour had come" for going to the cross, in 12:27. He seemed to have a great aversion to the whole idea of sin, and sorrow, and suffering, and death! And certainly, separation from His Father!

We sense the gloom of the hour as John describes Jesus giving Judas (the "Son of Simon Iscariot") the "morsel," then Satan "entering into him," and his going out into "the night"! A picture of darkness with "profound theological implications," as MacArthur sees it! We've already seen frequent reference to the "light and darkness" analogy in John's writings--most notably in one of our memory verses in John 8:27, where Jesus said: "I am the Light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in the darkness but will have the Light of life..."

But the "tone" changes dramatically, in verse 31 of our text--"after Judas had gone out"! The final events are now in motion! And now, the "new messianic community," as Kostenberger calls it, "has been cleansed" (depicted by the foot washing, and the departure of Judas) and is assembled--and the stage is set for Jesus to give His final instructions!

He starts it off with a "new commandment"! He tells them they are to "love one another, as I have loved you...in order that all men will know that you are My disciples"! As we discussed, what's new is that they were to "love as He loved"--which completely raised the standard!

The text ends with Jesus's conversation with Peter, who couldn't understand why Jesus would be leaving and why he couldn't follow Him! He (Peter) even said that he would "lay down His life for Him"--although we know it would be the other way around! Peter obviously had a long way to go in His "walk with the Lord," but in time he would, in fact, become a real "pillar of the church" but, interestingly, only after Jesus left the scene! But many things had yet to take place before this could happen, as we'll learn in the lessons to come!

We were challenged to examine the "things that trouble us," particularly in a spiritual sense, and how they might relate to the things that troubled Jesus! We also were challenged to consider ways that we can show more love for others, and particularly for "fellow believers"!

Next week, there's more on Jesus's "farewell discourse," as we examine John 14, and Lesson #27.

Have a great week, men!

Lowell