

BETRAYAL, DENIAL, AND LOVE

As preached on Sunday, May 3rd

Read: John 13:18-38

1. In v.18 Jesus dives right in to an announcement of betrayal. What scripture passage does he say this will fulfill? What is the significance of the combination of “sharing bread” and “turning against” someone?
2. Have you ever been hurt by the “wounds of a friend” in this way? How did it feel? Why is it that it hurts so badly when someone we know betrays us?
3. Do you think the disciples had any inkling that Judas was the betrayer? Why, or why not?
4. As soon as Judas leaves, Jesus begins to speak of glory. Look back at vv.31-32. What does Jesus mean by all of this “glory” talk?
5. Jesus gently shares with his disciples that he will soon be leaving and they can’t yet come with him (v.33). How does Peter respond? Are you surprised at Peter’s response? :) How does Jesus respond when Peter says he will die for Jesus?
6. What is the “new command” that Jesus gives in v.34? In what ways is the command old? In what ways is the command re-newed?
7. Jesus says that it is through obedience to this command that the watching world will know we are his followers. What “substitutes” do we sometimes rely upon instead to show we are Christians?
8. It’s been said that the church loving one another is “the single greatest missionary force in the world”. Name three specific ways you can love a brother or sister in Christ more passionately in order to participate more fully in this mission.