



Daily Reflections

May 19, 2019

Scripture

John 13: 31-35

When Judas had left them, Jesus said,
"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.
If God is glorified in him,
God will also glorify him in himself,
and God will glorify him at once.
My children, I will be with you only a little while longer.
I give you a new commandment: love one another.
As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.
This is how all will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another."

Our Scripture Reflection

One of the most absolutely amazing things about John's Gospel is the picture he records of Jesus and everything that happens in His life. He is always totally in control. One never even sees a hint of weakness or doubt or any other negative thing. Why? Because only John pictures Jesus as God Almighty, not just the Son of God. This point makes clear the statement that Jesus makes at the Last Supper immediately after He dispatches Judas to carry out his evil deed. Jesus says, "Now is the Son of man glorified...." Judas' betrayal is not pictured by John and a sign of defeat for Jesus, but rather, a

part of the Divine plan whereby He will accomplish what He was sent to do....save us!

Food for your Journey

Among the apostles, the one absolutely stunning success was Judas, and the one thoroughly groveling failure was Peter. Judas was a success in the ways that most impress us: He was successful both financially and politically. He cleverly arranged to control the money of the apostolic band; he skillfully manipulated the political forces of the day to accomplish his goal. And Peter was a failure in ways that we most dread: He was impotent in a crisis and socially inept. At the arrest of Jesus he collapsed, a hapless, blustering coward; in the most critical situations of his life with Jesus, the confession on the road to Caesarea Philippi and the vision on the Mount of Transfiguration, he said the most embarrassingly inappropriate things. He was not the companion we would want with us in time of danger, and he was not the kind of person we would feel comfortable with at a social occasion. Time, of course, has reversed our judgments on the two men. Judas is now a byword for betrayal, and Peter is one of the most honored names in the church and in the world. Judas is a villain; Peter is a saint. Yet the world continues to chase after the successes of Judas, financial wealth and political power, and to defend itself against the failures of Peter, impotence and ineptness.

—Eugene Petersen quoted in: Tim Kimmel, *Little House on the Freeway* (Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah Publishers, Inc., 1994), 191-192.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Your plan for my salvation reveals not only how much You love me but how You use any and all means at Your disposal to win the victory of my salvation, especially through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Help me to always remember, Lord, that with You all things are possible. Amen