

The Glory of God in the Darkness of Night

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He tension must have been so thick in the room that one could have cut through it with a knife. Jesus had just washed the feet of His disciples, foreshadowing the service He would render to them by sacrificing His life upon the cross for them (Jn. 13:1-7). Shortly thereafter, Jesus was troubled and distressed. Why? One of His own disciples, one of the disciples whose feet Jesus had just washed, would soon betray the Lord Jesus into the hands of those who would crucify Him (Jn. 13:21). The eyes of the disciples dart around the room, seeing if they may be able to determine which one of them would fulfill this horrible prediction. Peter can't stand it any longer. He has to know. Therefore, He motions to John, who was sitting next to Jesus, and says to him, "Ask him which one he means." (Jn. 13:24). In response to John, Jesus indicates His betrayer by dipping a piece of bread into the dish and giving it to Judas (Jn. 13:25-26). Judas, coming under the influence of Satan, finishes his bread and leaves to do his dirty work (Jn. 13:27-30). The parenthetical note is then provided – "and it was night" (Jn. 13:30). The night into which Judas entered to execute the betrayal of Jesus is a symbolic picture of the wicked darkness that has entered into Judas' heart. It is the wicked darkness that seeks to destroy the Son of God and His work.

However, notice with me Jesus' response in the next two verses. After Judas leaves the room where Jesus and His disciples were eating, Jesus states, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once" (Jn. 13:31-32). Jesus understands that, in the midst of the darkness of the night, He will be glorified. What the enemy, Satan, seeks to do in snuffing out the light of the life of Jesus will be used by God the Father to present, for the entire world to see, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. God the Father will turn on the light to reveal the loving, merciful character of Himself and the Lord Jesus and the gracious salvation that He provides in the darkest night in all of human history.

Have you faced some dark nights yourself? Have there been times for which it seems like the enemy of your soul has gained the upper hand and is keeping you in the dark? Are you going through an experience like that right now? Keep in mind that God's glory, the revelation of His gracious character and ways, is most evident in the darkest of nights. May you see His glory in the darkness of night.