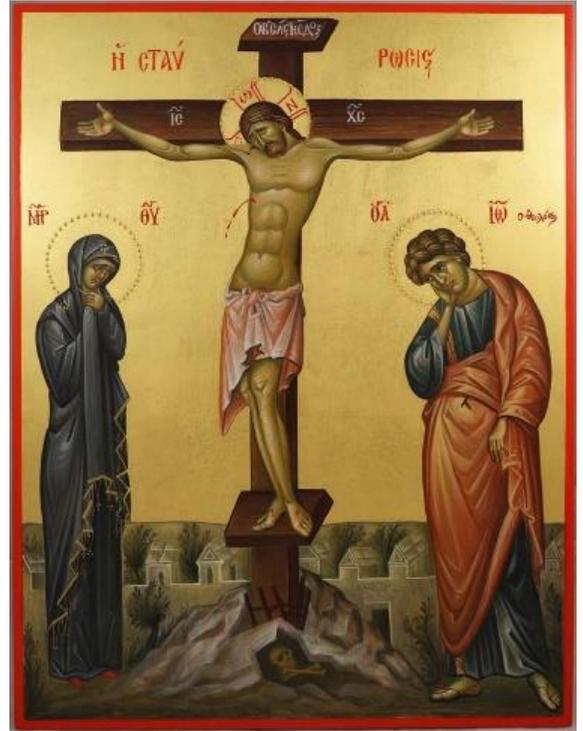


After Judas left the Last Supper with the intention to betray Jesus, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified.” Why “now”? How does Judas’ betrayal relate to Jesus’ glorification? Well, Judas’ betrayal would ultimately lead Jesus to the Cross, and on the Cross Jesus’ perfect, divine, love is made manifest. On the Cross, by an act of sacrificial love, Jesus paid the price for our sins and won victory over sin and death. Sacred Scripture says, “Because He was obedient unto death God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name above all names so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow” (Eph 2:8-10). **The Son of Man is glorified in His Passion because glory is the fruit of love.**

After announcing His glorification Jesus says: “I give you a new commandment: Love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. This is how all will know you for my disciples: your love for one another.” Here, Jesus is saying, “watch closely . . . look at me . . . see how I love . . . see what I do, then love one another in this way!” **St. Claude reflects on the depths of love in the heart of Jesus:**



“The love of Our Lord’s Heart was in no way diminished by the treason of Judas, the flight of the apostles, and the persecution of his enemies. Jesus was only grieved at the harm they did themselves; his sufferings helped to assuage his grief because he saw in them a remedy for the sins committed by his enemies. The Sacred heart was full of most tender love: there was no bitterness in it; no cruelty and injustice that he received moved it to feelings other than those of compassion and affection. . . . I turned to Mary and asked her to obtain for me the grace to imitate Our Lord’s Heart. I saw how perfectly her heart copied his: she loved those who put her Son to death and offered him to God the Father for them. This enkindled a very great love of virtue in my heart.”

- St. Claude de la Colombiere

Wow! This is truly supernatural virtue! Is it possible for us to live this way? Is it possible for us to love one another as He has loved us? Yes and no. We cannot do this on our own. No psychologist in the world can teach us this; no human being can teach us to live this way; we cannot, by our own willpower achieve the ultimate heights of love to which we are called. We must be open to the Spirit of God—to allow Him to live and move and have His way with us. The Scriptures teach us, “The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit” (Rom 5:5).

The challenge for us is obvious: how do we respond to betrayal? How do we respond to the crosses and trials of life? Do we allow the Holy Spirit to have His way with us in these matters? What was true for Jesus is true for us: our future glory will be the fruit of the love we manifest in this life—no more, no less. The way we respond to our betrayers and crosses reveals the true depths of our love.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us! Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

Your Servant in Christ,
Fr. Terry Staples