

I. John 13:1-30 – The Last Supper

A. John 13:1-11 – Jesus washed the disciples' feet

1. John 13:1 – *Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end* . Jesus was completely aware that He would be crucified the very next day, yet He desired to share a final **meal** with His disciples.
 - a. Starting here in chapter 13, there is a **shift** in the narrative of John's Gospel. After Judas left, Jesus began to give new instructions to the disciples. These instructions would be specifically applicable to the coming Church Age.
 - b. Since the church was still a mystery, the disciples did not understand the complete significance of Jesus' teaching. After the church began and the Holy Spirit came to indwell believers, these truths (John 3-17) became more readily **understood**.
2. John 13:2 – *During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him ...* When Judas realized he was not going to get fame and **fortune** by following Jesus, he abandoned himself fully to Satan. Proverbs 15:27, Matthew 26:14-16
3. John 13:3 – *Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God ...* Because of what Jesus **knew** to be true about Himself, He was able to face the cross.
 - a. Jesus knew **three** things about Himself.
 - 1) Jesus was fully aware that God had put all things under His care and sovereign authority. Jesus was Adam's replacement as the one tasked to bring everything into subjection to God. Jesus is therefore rightly called the last **Adam**. Genesis 1:26; Psalm 8:6; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:9-10,20-23; 2 Timothy 1:10
 - 2) Jesus was also fully aware of where He came from. He came from heaven as **Emmanuel**, God with us. He came forth from God the Father. Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7; Matthew 1:23; Hebrews 1:3, 2:810
 - 3) Jesus was fully aware of where He was going. He knew His ultimate **destiny** was the right hand of the Father, via the rejection, pain and suffering of the cross and the obscurity of the tomb. He knew His future was one of glory and not punishment. Psalm 110:1, Mark 16:19, Acts 3:15, Hebrews 12:1-3
 - b. In a moment when most of us would likely give up, Jesus not only remained **faithful** to the Father's plan but also continued to selflessly serve others. Not only did He serve His friends and loved ones, He served Judas, His betrayer, by washing his feet right along with the other disciples. John 13:18-30, Philippians 2:8
4. John 13:4 – *Jesus ... got up from supper and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself* . What was Jesus planning to do? He was preparing to wash the feet of His disciples. Jesus prepared to take on a role of service usually done by the lowest of all household **servants**. Jesus did this to model real love and true humility. Philippians 2:1-8
 - a. Jesus showed that all of us, especially those who are "leaders," are to actively **serve** and not wait to be served. Matthew 23:11; Mark 9:35, 10:43-44; Luke 22:26; 1 Peter 5:5
 - b. This kind of **grace** is the chief distinguishing mark Christianity has over all other belief systems on earth. We are not to seek superiority over people, we instead humbly attend to their needs. We seek to serve, not to be served. Luke 19:10, Philippians 2:3-8
5. John 13:5 – *Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded*. In that day, people needed their feet washed because they walked down **dusty** roads with only sandals on their feet.
 - a. Even though people bathed before leaving home, by the time they arrived at their destination, their **feet** needed a good cleaning. Upon arrival, the most insignificant servant in the home typically performed this lowly task for the guests.
 - b. The Greek word *wash* NIPTO referred to washing merely a **part** of the body, not to having a full bath.
 - c. Interestingly, the disciples had just argued about which one of them would be considered the **greatest**, and Jesus had told them that the way to true greatness is through service.
 - d. The Christian way of doing things is **opposite** from the secular. It may be that the disciples' feet still needed washing because none of them was willing to stoop down and do this for the others. Pride is an ugly beast. Luke 22:24-27

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6. John 13:6 – *So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?”* As would be the case for the majority of us, Peter was **uncomfortable** with Jesus serving him in such a lowly and debasing way.
 - a. From this historical event, we learn an important lesson. Jesus is the master of the universe and yet He stooped to wash the feet of His very imperfect disciples. We, therefore, should never be too big or too important to stoop to serve and love one another in the **humblest** of ways. John 13:35
 - b. Peter strongly objected to having his feet washed by his Master, the Lord Jesus. In essence, Peter exclaimed, “Lord, You? **You** wash my feet?” Peter did not want the Christ to perform such a demeaning task for Him. Matthew 16:16
7. John 13:7 – *Jesus answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter.”* Peter did not understand the significance of Jesus’ actions at the moment, but Jesus assured him that one day he would indeed understand. Jesus was **patient** with Peter, but He did insist on washing His feet. John 21:15-19
8. John 13:8a – *Peter said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!”* In objection to the Lord washing his feet, Peter used the strongest of all Greek negations, OU ME, meaning “never, no not ever.” Peter refused to humbly **submit** to the Lord’s act of love.
9. John 13:8b – *Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”* Jesus rebuked Peter. He basically told Peter that to not let Him wash his feet would cut Peter off from **closeness** and camaraderie with Him.
10. John 13:9 – *Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.”* Peter failed to listen carefully to the Lord’s words. In our immature zeal for the Lord most us have made similar statements. When we are wrong, it’s wise to simply **admit** it and avoid “all or nothing” statements. The Lord was not impressed. Psalm 12:3
11. John 13:10a – *Jesus said to him, “He who has bathed LOUO needs only to wash NIPTO his feet, but is completely clean KATHAROS...”* The Greek word to bathe LOUO refers to a full bath. Jesus used the word bathe here to express to Peter and the disciples that we are **fully** cleansed at a moment in time, in the moment we believe and are justified. Titus 3:5
 - a. Cleansing, as in a bath LOUO, happens only **once**, at the point of our salvation.
 - b. Cleansing as in a foot washing NIPTO happens many times after salvation. Having been fully cleansed in our justification, we now need only to wash our feet in our on-going sanctification, whenever they get **dirty**. Ongoing cleansing is described in 1 John 1:5-2:2.
12. John 13:10b – *Jesus said to him, “...and you [singular, Peter] are clean, but not all of you [plural] .”* In reference to justification, Jesus told Peter that he was already clean KATHAROS. But for the sake of those listening, Jesus immediately clarified that not all of them were clean like Peter. Jesus knew one of His followers had never been **bathed** LOUO (justified).
13. John 13:11 – *For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason, He said, “Not all of you are clean.”* In an audience of both saved and unsaved, we should always make a **distinction** between them. Jesus wanted Judas to know that he was not included among those who were bathed. Judas was not only a false disciple of Christ; he was treacherous. 2 Corinthians 11:26

B. John 13:12-20 – Jesus explained the meaning behind His actions

1. John 13:12 – *So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”* Jesus Messiah had just blessed them by doing one of the **lowliest** tasks possible. What did He want them to learn from this act?
2. John 13:13 – *“You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.”* The disciples addressed Jesus as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Master.’ It was right for them to do so because Jesus truly was their teacher and their **master**.
3. John 13:14 – *“If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet .”* Jesus showed the disciples a style of leadership that is **contrary** to the secular model.
 - a. The disciples should follow the example set by their teacher and master. Just like Him, they should be **servants** first as leaders. This amazing distinction has characterized the church from its inception. Luke 22:24-27
 - b. It is important to note that the Lord was not establishing a **ritual** of foot washing to be observed by the church. However, He did communicate that Christian service should be an ongoing practice for every believer.
4. John 13:15 – *“For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you .”* If their esteemed master and teacher washed their filthy feet, they should likewise humbly follow His example. They should consider

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- the needs of others as more important than their own. We should all humbly **copy** Christ's example. Ephesians 5:1, Philippians 2:3-8, 1 Peter 2:21
5. John 13:16 – “*Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.*” Jesus wanted His disciples to fully embrace the important principle that no servant is **greater** than his master and no messenger is greater than the one who sent him. 2 Corinthians 5:20
 - a. Jesus made Himself the prime example to follow in leadership. The disciples were not to follow Roman, Jewish, or any other **earthly** style of leadership. Christ was the one and only perfect example and He led by love and service even when faced with rejection. Luke 9:52-55, Romans 12:14-21
 - b. Jesus' disciples were going to be the apostles who would lay the foundation of the church. As head of the church, Jesus served to the point of giving His life for it. The concept of grace and service would be at the heart of the Church Age. Jesus wanted the disciples to **adopt** and teach this pattern. Acts 1:8-9; Ephesians 2:19-20, 4:11-12, 5:25
 6. John 13:17 – “*If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.*” Here are two conditional statements. If you understand the principles of servant-leadership, you are on the right track, but don't stop there. You only **profit** from this knowledge if you put it into practice in your own life. James 1:22-25
 7. John 13:18 – “*I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'he who eats my bread has lifted up his heel against Me'.*” The Lord handpicked twelve disciples and brought them into His service. One of them was a betrayer, and yet Jesus knowingly **chose** him anyway. This was prophesied. Psalm 41:9
 - a. If this had not been **foretold**, people may have questioned Jesus' wisdom and omniscience in bringing such a man into His confidence.
 - b. But Jesus deliberately used this evil-hearted individual to bring about His arrest and sacrifice. God used Judas to execute His **sovereign** plans. Nothing was out of control.
 8. John 13:19 – “*From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.*” Jesus told His disciples this **detail** in advance so that when they saw it happen, they would be strengthened in their faith and not destroyed. To predict your own future is impossible for ordinary humans. Jesus was God incarnate.
 9. John 13:20 – “*Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.*” The disciples needed to understand this crucial principle. To accept a messenger is **equivalent** to accepting the one who sent the messenger. John 5:23-24
 - a. God the Son sent out His disciples as ambassadors. Jesus said that whoever welcomed His ambassadors welcomed Him. And whoever welcomed Jesus, the Son, welcomed the Father as well. All Jesus' disciples, except for Judas, **welcomed** the Son. By accepting Jesus by faith, they accepted the Father by faith as well.
 - b. The opposite is also true. By rejecting Jesus, the Son, Judas **rejected** the Father who sent Him. In the same way, those who reject Jesus' ambassadors are actually rejecting Jesus, who sent them, and the Father as well. As Christ's servants, we should not expect to be received better than our master was received. Luke 10:16; Acts 9:5; 1 John 3:1b

C. John 13:21-30 – Predictions of betrayal and denial

1. John 13:21 – *When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.”* Jesus only ever said what the Father told Him to say (Jn. 12:49-50). The Father wanted Jesus to tell His disciples the truth about receiving an ambassador, yet as soon as He said those **words**, He became troubled.
 - a. Jesus must have suddenly thought of Judas, who had not received Him by faith. This thought briefly threw Jesus into emotional **turmoil**. One of His beloved followers, one who sat at the meal with them right then and there, was a traitor.
 - b. Jesus was about to be betrayed into the hands of His enemies by one of His own. He **knew** it and that thought deeply pained him.
2. John 13:22 – *The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking.* The surprised disciples could not imagine who from among them would **betray** Him. They sat mystified, staring at each other, wondering who on earth Jesus might be speaking about. Matthew 26:22-25
3. John 13:23-25 – Peter motioned for **John** to ask Jesus.
 - a. John 13:23 – *There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.* This was the way John referred to himself in the Gospel of John. He was not claiming a special relationship with Jesus that none of the other disciples enjoyed; he simply was **confident** that Jesus loved and accepted him. John 13:23, 19:26, 21:7, 21:20

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- 1) John lived in the light of Jesus' **love**. Because of that his joy was full. John enjoyed the abundant life Christ came to give His children. As God's child, you also should view yourself as the disciple Christ loves. John 10:10b; 1 John 1:3-4, 3:1a
- 2) At that time, the custom when eating was for everyone to **recline** around the table, leaning on their left elbow. Since John was next to Jesus and reclined in this way, it was easy for him to lean over and whisper to Jesus.
 - b. John 13:24 – *So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking."* Peter caught John's attention and nodded to him to find out who the **betray**er was.
 - c. John 13:25 – *He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"* This disciple (likely John himself) leaned back toward Jesus and asked Him who. Who was He talking about? Who would do such a thing? This was likely one of the most **perplexing** moments the disciples had experienced.
4. John 13:26 – *Jesus then answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him."* So, when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Jesus answered John in a hidden, yet discernable, way. We do not know if the other disciples **heard** what Jesus said, but John certainly did.
 - a. Instead of simply pointing out Judas as a traitor, Jesus offered him a piece of dipped bread. In this way, according to the custom of the day, Jesus set Judas apart as a guest of **honor**, while at the same time letting Judas know that He knew of His plans.
 - b. Was this an offer of grace by Jesus before Judas passed a point of no return? Most likely it was, but sadly the very next verse shows the condition of Judas' **heart**.
5. John 13:27 – *After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore, Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."* Right then and there, Satan took possession of Judas. Even though Jesus was fully aware of the consequences of Judas' actions, He commanded Judas to go ahead and quickly carry out his evil plans. Jesus was in **control**, even in that moment. John 13:2
6. John 13:28 – *Now no one of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose He had said this to him .* This verse and the next indicate that Jesus had not **overtly** identified Judas as the betrayer. Judas was the only one who knew for certain that Jesus knew of His evil plans. John 6:70
7. John 13:29 – *For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast" ; or else, that he should give something to the poor.* The disciples **trusted** Judas with their money; they would not have suspected he was a traitor planning evil against Christ Jesus.
8. John 13:30 – *So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night .* John pointed out that it was nighttime when Judas left. Judas was working His evil plan to betray Jesus under the cover of darkness. Without question, Judas had rejected the **Light** of the world, Jesus Christ. Proverbs 2:13; John 3:19-21, 8:12, 12:46; 1 John 2:11