

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 46

Lesson 46 – In the Upper Room

Background:

Although in the previous lesson we finished with Jesus and the disciples leaving the Upper Room and heading towards the Mount of Olives, in this lesson we will return to the Upper Room.

In this lesson we will look at the details that John recorded about Jesus' words and actions during this very dramatic time when emotions were heightened. We will learn how Jesus calms the disciples and shares timeless truths for us today.

Read: [John 13:1-38; 14:1-12](#)

Read the Following Quote

"Foot washing was a common custom due to the wearing of sandals and the dry, dusty Palestinian roads. A good host would provide a servant who would work in this capacity, but if none were there, he certainly would not take up the chore himself as Jesus does. That which enables Jesus to serve like this may be described in 13:3. Jesus has perfect self-esteem, he knows of God's love expressed in his origin and destiny and therefore can relinquish human status to become a servant." [Gary M. Burge](#)

Questions:

What do you think the author means when he says that "Jesus has perfect self-esteem"? How could Jesus relinquish human status?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [John 13:1-17](#)

Jesus Washes His Disciples Feet

1. What do you see in verse 1 that would help understand why Jesus decided to wash His disciples feet?

2. Who had prompted Judas to betray Jesus? What does this tell you about the devil's influence in the world? How does verse 3 help us understand why Jesus was not surprised or afraid by what Judas was about to do?

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3. Describe the specific steps Jesus took in verses 4 and 5. Why do you think these are recorded in such detail?

4. Describe the conversation between Jesus and Peter in verses 6-10. Why do you think Peter thought Jesus should also wash his hands and his head? Why did Jesus refuse to that? Is Jesus talking about our sinfulness? If so, why do you think He just washes Peter's feet?

5. Read [I John 1:8-10](#). In this short letter, John helps us understand the relationship between sin, confession, forgiveness and righteousness. How does this passage help us to understand what Jesus was teaching the disciples by washing their feet?

6. What kind of leader would wash His followers feet? What does this passage teach us about Christian leadership? Compare what Jesus says about servanthood in [Mark 10:43-45](#). Should we literally wash each other's feet like Jesus instructs the disciples in verse 14? If yes, then when. If not, then is Jesus speaking figuratively and what does He mean?

Judas Predicts His Betrayal [John 13:18-30](#)

7. John shares more details about the betrayal by Judas. Did Jesus seem to be aware of Judas' impending betrayal? Who are we accepting if we accept Jesus? Who are we rejecting if we reject Jesus? (verse 18-20)

8. Did the disciples believe or understand Jesus when He said that one of them was going to betray Him? How did Jesus say they would know who the betrayer was? (verses 21-27) What happened to Judas when he accepted the bread given to him?

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9. Did the disciples now understand who the betrayer was? Why were they still confused? What does the example of Judas tell us about false Christians?

Judas Predicts Peter's Denial [John 13:31-38](#)

10. What do you think verses 31 and 32 mean? What does it mean to be glorified? How much longer does Jesus expect to be with the disciples? What is the command He gives the disciples? Is this command still important for us today? Why or why not? (Verses 34-35)

11. Does Peter understand where Jesus is going? What does Peter promise to do and how does Jesus respond? What would you have said to Jesus if you were there?

Judas Comforts His Disciples and Explains "The Way." [John 14:1-12](#)

12. Explain verses 1-4. Where, or what is this "place" Jesus is referring to? Does Thomas know the way? Why does He ask this question? What motivates Him?

13. What is "the way"? How can we come to the Father? Can we know the Father? How? Philip is still confused. What does Jesus explain about His relationship with His Father? What does He explain about the actions He has taken? How do these actions help us understand who Jesus is? Who do you believe Jesus is and how can we reach the "place" He is preparing for us? (verses 8-12)

Suggested Prayer:

"Heavenly Father we understand and believe that Jesus is our way and truth and life. We know that He is preparing a place for us and that this place is wherever you are. Yet, we can be weak and lack in faith. Strengthen our faith - in Jesus name.

For Further Reading:

[Jesus Said, I Am The Way, The Truth And The Life](#)

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