

JOHN 13:1-20

JESUS WASHES

As John 13 begins, we are brought into the Upper Room on the night before the cross.

Jesus knows that His “hour” has come, the moment when His mission will be fulfilled. In this final evening with His disciples, He shows them what His love truly looks like.

Instead of asserting His authority, Jesus assumes the role of a servant. He kneels and washes the feet of His disciples, a task so low it was reserved for the least. Yet, this is no accident. Fully aware of who He is and where He is going, Jesus uses this moment to reveal the heart of His mission.

This act models the kind of servant leadership Jesus expects from His followers. “I have set you an example” He says, “that you should do as I have done for you” (13:15).

In the kingdom of God, love doesn’t rise to the top; it stoops low, Jesus’ love serves, gives, and reshapes how we see greatness. The One with all authority chooses to kneel.

DAILY READINGS

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| I. JOHN 13:1-20 | V. LUKE 22:24-30 |
| II. MARK 14:10-16 | VI. EXODUS 12:1-28 |
| III. LUKE 22:1-13 | VII. MATTHEW 20:20-28 |
| IV. LUKE 22:14-23 | |

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 13:16

JOHN 13:1-20

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."

¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.

¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.

¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

¹⁸ "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.'"

¹⁹ "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. ²⁰ Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

Handwriting practice area consisting of a grid of dotted lines on a lined background. The grid is composed of 20 columns and 30 rows of dots, providing a guide for letter formation and placement.

DISCUSSION

Growing up, what was the one chore or responsibility you disliked the most? If you managed to avoid it, who ended up doing it instead? Do you still dislike that task today?

Read John 13:1-20 aloud.

What is the setting of this scene? When is it taking place, and who is present?

According to verses 1, 3, and 11, what does Jesus know that the disciples do not yet understand? How does this deepen the significance of His decision to wash their feet?

Why do you think Peter reacts so strongly in verses 6-9? What does Jesus mean in His response in verses 10-11?

Jesus tells His disciples to follow His example (v. 15). What might this look like in everyday life? Who comes to mind as someone who embodies this kind of humble service, and what do they do to serve others?

How will you put Jesus' teaching into practice this week? Whom can you serve—in your home, workplace, or school? Pray for open eyes to see the opportunity and for the blessing Jesus promises in verse 17.



“Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master,
nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.”

JOHN 13:16