

3. How do you reconcile 13:3 with the fact that Jesus was about to be arrested and crucified?

For Your Information: "the Father had given all things into His hands' 13:3 Jesus is about to face the agony of crucifixion and the terror of standing in the place of guilty sinners before the righteous wrath of God the Father... Jesus went into this situation as a *victor*, not as a *victim*. He could have backed out any time He wanted to... Jesus is about to lower Himself, literally stooping in humble service to His disciples. But as He serves in this humble way, He does not do it from *weakness*. He does it from a position of *all authority*... **'And that He had come from God and was going to God'** Jesus didn't only know His *authority*, He also knew His *relationship* with God. He knew His identity.

"He poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet" (13:5) "So why didn't any of the disciples do this first? Any of the disciples would have gladly washed Jesus' feet. But they could not wash *His* without having to be available to wash the others' feet, and that would have been an intolerable admission of inferiority among their fellow competitors for the top positions in the disciples' hierarchy. So no one's feet got washed!" - David Guzik

4. Imagine the scene and note each of the steps describing Jesus' act of washing the disciples' feet in 3:4,5. What emotions do you hear in Peter's question? 13:6

Optional Digging Deeper
What insight does Luke 22:24-30 give you into the atmosphere at this supper?

5. How did Jesus address Peter's confusion? 13:7 (What did Peter write later? 1 Peter 5:2-6)

6. When Peter objected, what deeper meaning did Jesus give to the washing? 13:8 (See 1 Corinthians 6:11; Titus 3:5-7)

7. What do you think Jesus meant by saying that the disciples were clean? 13:10 (See John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26)

For Your Information: "Completely clean" (13:10) "Because Peter believed in the Son of God and had received salvation from sin by grace, he was already clean. (Perhaps we could say, 'Once bathed, always bathed!') The grace of God, however, continues throughout the life of the believer, whose feet collect dust from the world... While the believer has been cleansed of sin in the legal sense – past, present, and future sins will not be counted against him or her in eternity – the believer will continually struggle to remain clean experientially before entering eternity." - Charles Swindoll (225)

8. What did Jesus know about Judas' plans? 13:10,11 (Compare Matthew 20:18)

- Why do you think Jesus didn't stop Judas?

Food for Thought: "Jesus didn't line up the disciples in order of closeness, or loyalty, or any other standard. He didn't wait for the traitor among them to depart on his evil mission before washing their feet. He washed the feet that needed washing, without favoritism or prejudice." - Charles Swindoll (227)

Applying the Word: What is one specific way you can “wash the feet” of a family member, a friend, a neighbor or a stranger this week?

Day 2

Read John 13:12-20

Jesus tells of His betrayal

9. What was the basis for the commands “ought” and “should” in 13:14,15?

- What do you think Jesus meant by washing “one another’s feet?”

Food for Thought: “Anything we do for each other that washes away the grime of the world and the dust of defeat and discouragement is foot washing.”
– David Guzik

10. What truth helps us keep the right perspective in serving? 3:16 (Compare Matt. 10:24,25a)

- What titles did Jesus use of Himself in 13:13,16? What titles refer to the disciples in 13:16?

IT’S GREEK TO ME “*one who is sent/messenger*” Strong’s #652 *apostolos*; a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ [“apostle”]
– Strong’s Concordance

11. What benefit did Jesus give for obedience? 13:17 (Compare Matthew 7:24,25; James 1:25)

12. When warning about Judas’ betrayal, what did Jesus say to reassure the disciples?

- 13:18 (See Psalm 41:9)
- 13:19

For Your Information: “Judas Iscariot was one of those Jesus had chosen (Matt 10:1-4; Luke 6:12-16). Jesus knew the heart and motives of each of the twelve men He chose, and He knew that Judas would fulfill Scripture. Judas Iscariot had traveled and eaten with Jesus for three years. He had heard His ministry and shared fellowship with friends such as Mary, Martha and Lazarus. But his heart had not been in it (see, for example, 12:5-6).” - Africa Bible Commentary (1282)

“**Lifted his heel against me** means ‘has given me a great fall’ or ‘has taken cruel advantage of me.’ To the eastern idea of hospitality, for one who eats bread with Me to lift up his heel against Me was great betrayal and treachery.” - David Guzik

“Lifting up his heel was a gesture of insult, or a preparation to kick. The blow had not yet been given. This was the attitude of Judas at that moment. He was eating with the disciples, but he was ready to strike.” - The Nelson Study Bible (1791)

13. Jesus often told the disciples things beforehand without them being able to understand. (See 13:7,22,36) What other things did they understand or believe later?

- John 2:19-22
- John 8:27-28
- John 12:15,16
- Luke 24:5-8

14. What else helped them understand? John 14:25-26

15. What significance did Jesus give to the work of believers? 13:20 (Compare Luke 10:16)

Applying the Word: *In what types of circumstances do you find it challenging to be a servant? How does knowing that you are an ambassador of Christ (13:20; see also 2 Corinthians 3:3; 5:20) and a beloved child of God help? (Have you ever found it difficult to be served?)*

Day 3

Read John 13:21-30

Jesus confronts Judas

16. How did Jesus feel about Judas' betrayal? 13:21 (How long had Jesus known about Judas' betrayal? See John 6:64,70,71)

For Your Information: "Jesus was **troubled in spirit** at this; He was not unfeeling or emotionally detached from the events surrounding His passion. He loved Judas, and was troubled for Judas' sake, not His own...By revealing the traitor, Jesus shows that He is in control of these events; He is not being taken by surprise." - David Guzik

17. How did the disciples respond to the information about a betrayal? 13:22 (Compare Mark 14:19; Matthew 26:21-25)

18. How did Jesus reveal the identity of the betrayer to Peter and John? 13:23-26 (Why do you think He didn't tell the other disciples?)

19. During this meal, in what ways had Jesus been reaching out in love?

- At what point could Judas have repented?

For Your Information: "reclining on Jesus' breast" (13:23) "At this time people did not generally sit at a table to eat. They reclined on the left side of a low platform, resting on the left elbow and eating with the right hand, their feet extended outward. Reclining in such a way, a man's head was near the bosom of the person on his left. The disciple whom Jesus loved is never named in scripture, but the tradition of the early church designates him as John, the author of this Gospel. **"Peter therefore gestured to him"** (13:24) "Evidently Peter was not sitting next to Jesus. He was nearer to John, so he beckoned John to ask Jesus who was going to betray Him." - The Nelson Study Bible (1791)

"Apparently, Judas reclined within easy reach, suggesting he may have been lying to Jesus' left, the honored position at a banquet. This was Jesus' final act of grace to Judas. He had washed the man's feet and given him the place of honor by His side; then, despite the sin in the traitor's heart, the Lord offered him fellowship." - Charles Swindoll (232)

"The giving of the dipped bread designated special honor, like a toast; it was a mark of courtesy and esteem. Jesus showed great love to Judas, giving him the chance to repent. Had Judas repented, his past intention would have been secret before the disciples." - David Guzik

20. Why do you think Jesus dismissed Judas with the command, "What you do, do quickly?" 13:27

For Your Information: "The answer of Jesus through the use of the 'sop' (26) was both definite and merciful. He spoke no name, and so did not call the attention of the group as a whole to the guilty man...Judas, doubtless prompted by fear, withdrew suddenly. Had the others realized his purpose, they might have killed him on the spot. Furthermore, Judas knew that Jesus had discovered his falsity; and his best defense would be immediate action." - Merrill Tenney (202)

21. Compare 13:27 with 13:2. How do you account for such apostasy on Judas' part? What do you think he was trying to gain?

For Your Information: "Jesus carefully refrained from making any pronouncements on issues of state; He talked instead to the disciples about surrendering Himself to death. Possibly Judas felt frustrated because the kingdom that he had anticipated was not about to materialize. If the kingdom were not to be immediately manifested, his relation to Jesus had put him in the anomalous position of gaining nothing and losing everything. Not only *would* he fail to obtain a post in a new realm, but he would, upon Jesus' death, be put under suspicion as a rebel. If he should take the alternative of betraying Jesus he would profit financially, and would square himself with the victorious priests." - Merrill Tenney (183)

22. Why do you think the disciples didn't suspect Judas? 13:22,28

- Consider: With what had Judas been entrusted? 13:29 (See also 12:6) What had the disciples experienced together? Mark 3:13-15; Luke 9:1-6

23. What significance do you see in the words “*it was night?*” 13:30

For Your Information: “The progress of evil within Judas is traceable in the successive allusions to him in the Gospel. In 6:70,71 Jesus spoke of him as a ‘devil,’ or adversary, for that is what the name means...In 12:4-6, he was called a ‘thief.’ In 13:2, the devil is said to have put into his heart the idea of betraying Jesus’ and in 13:27 it is said that Satan entered into him. His life was the antithesis of life, and its utter selfishness ended in Satanic control and in the sin which has made his name a byword to all subsequent generations.”
- Merrill C. Tenney (202)

Applying the Word: *Do you have someone in your life who seems to be against you? How does Jesus’ example help you?*

Day 4

Read John 13:31-38

For Your Information: “The entire passage from 13:21 through the sixteenth chapter constitutes one farewell address...Three general units can be distinguished in the Conference with the Disciples: the Conference on Preparation (13:21-14:31) in which Jesus attempted to prepare His followers for the shock of His sudden removal; the Conference on Relationship (15:1-27) in which He explained the new relations which would obtain among them after His departure, and the Conference on Revelation (16:1-33) in which He laid down the principles by which they might maintain their connection with Him in the future.)
- Merrill C. Tenney (202,204,205)

Jesus’ glorification

24. (13:31-chapter 16 is Jesus’ farewell address to His disciples.) What four statements did Jesus make about being glorified? 13:31,32 (To what events was Jesus referring? John 12:23,24)

- 13:31a
- 13:31b
- 13:32a
- 13:32b

IT’S GREEK TO ME “*glorify* doxazo Strong’s 1392...to magnify, extol, praise...especially of ‘glorifying’ God, i. e., ascribing honor to Him, acknowledging Him as to His being, attributes and acts...the glory of God is the revelation and manifestation of all that He has and is”
- Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

“The introductory announcement of Jesus (13:31) set the theme for the main line of the discourse. ‘Glorify’ was used in a specialized sense, referring to the culmination of the divine purpose in the career of Christ. The general meaning of the word is to magnify or extol, to exalt to a position of honor. John applied it here, and in a few other passages, to the death of Jesus...By His passion, in which the death of the cross was central, the Father would be magnified among men, and Jesus would be exalted as a Savior. Paradoxically, the hour of His greatest humiliation would be the hour of His supreme glory.”
- Merrill C. Tenney (210)

“Jesus would be revealed as the divine Son of God and Savior of the world by His death and resurrection, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. God would be glorified in Him in that God’s love, truth, and righteousness would be revealed in what Jesus was doing.”
- The Nelson Study Bible (1792)

25. How do Jesus' words in 13:33,36 differ from what He said to the Jews earlier? (8:21)

For Your Information: *"I shall be with you a little while longer . . . Where I am going, you cannot come:* This would have been like an earthquake to the disciples. They had literally left everything to follow Jesus, and expected to be high-ranking officials in His government when He took political control of Israel as Messiah. They have followed Him for three years, enduring a lot, and now He says, 'I'm leaving you'? Jesus will explain this dramatic statement and comfort the disciples concerning this all the way through the end of John 14."
- David Guzik

The New Commandment

26. In view of His coming departure, how did Jesus prepare the disciples to stay united? 13:34
(Compare Galatians 5:14)

- Compare this commandment to Leviticus 19:18. What is "new" about this commandment?

27. What attitude had already threatened their unity? Luke 9:46; 22:24

- Why would that attitude be so devastating to the disciples during the coming days?

28. What would following this commandment do to their witness? 13:35

Food for Thought: "A disunited band of disciples would fall an easy prey to their enemies, and would afford a poor instrument for His subsequent plans."
- Merrill C. Tenney (211)

29. Jesus gave this commandment in the face of Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial. What does that say about the love He was asking them to have?

30. What didn't Peter understand? 13:36 (Compare Matthew 16:21-23)

31. What did Peter say about his commitment to the Lord? 13:37
(Compare Matthew 26:35)

- What happened? 13:38 (Cf. John 18:26-27)

Optional Digging Deeper

What do the following verses say about love? (Who are we to love and how?)

Mark 12:30-31

Luke 6:35

1 Peter 3:8-9

32. What else did Jesus tell Peter? Luke 22:31-34

- In what ways would telling Peter about his defection ahead of time be a loving thing to do?

33. Review the things that Jesus knew versus the things the disciples had trouble understanding.

Jesus' knowledge	Disciples' lack of understanding
13:1,3,11,18,38	13:7,22,28,36

Optional Digging Deeper
Memorize John 13:34,35

Applying the Word: *What is one of the most powerful examples you have seen of one person loving another with the love of Christ? Why do you think loving one another (especially when difficult or undeserved) is such a powerful witness?*