

Love and Betrayal – John 13



MEMORY VERSE: If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. John 13:14-15

DAY 1 JOHN 13:1-11 — Jesus Washes Feet

1. What knowledge and understanding did Jesus have? vv.1-3,11 and 2:4
2. How did what Jesus **knew** impact what Jesus **did**? vv.1-5
3. How does your knowledge influence the way you treat others?
4. What reactions did Simon Peter have to Jesus washing his feet? Why do you think he reacted as he did? vv.6-10
5. How did Jesus answer Peter and what do you think He meant? vv.7-11

Titus 3:4-7

Proverbs 28:13

DAY 2 JOHN 13:12-20 — Christ's Example of Humble Service

6. What did Jesus want His disciples, and we followers of Him today, to understand? vv.12-15

LEARN THE TRUTH

The Divine became human, and rather than demanding reverence, Jesus knelt down and washed the feet of those He loved so dearly. The unworthy received the most humble act of service from the most worthy Divine Son of God, as He began to prepare them for what was about to happen.

7. Why are verses 15-17 especially important for us to take to heart?

Luke 9:23-25

Romans 12:1-2

8. Why do you think it can be hard for us to humbly serve others? What traits do you see in a person who serves well, and how does that impact you?
9. The fulfillment of Scripture is indeed faith-building! What do the following Scriptures prophecy?
vv.18-19

Genesis 3:14-15 (hint: Jesus will defeat Satan)

Psalms 41:9

Isaiah 53:5-6

10. What point is Jesus making in verse 20? see also 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

DAY 3 JOHN 13:21-30 — Betraying God

11. Jesus was “troubled in His spirit.” List all the things you can think of that would have been troubling at this time. v.21...
12. Why do you think the disciples couldn’t figure out who would betray Jesus? Why might they have failed to suspect Judas?

Matthew 26:20-22

13. What do you conclude about the exchange between Jesus and Judas? vv.26-27

14. What did the disciples think Jesus meant when He said to Judas, “What you are going to do, do quickly?” vv.26-29

15. Why was Satan able to enter into Judas, especially considering all that he had experienced with Jesus during His earthly ministry? vv.27-30

John 6:70-71, 12:5-6; 13:11

James 4:6-8

DAY 4 JOHN 13:31-35 — The Commandment to Love

16. Why was this particular moment a good time for Jesus to talk of glory? v.31

17. What did Jesus say about glory and what do you think He meant? vv.31-32

18. What do you think Jesus meant by His words in verse 33? Where was He going and why could they not come?

19. The disciples could not go where Jesus was about to go, but what could they do instead? v.34

20. Why is the commandment to love at the very heart of our faith? v.35

1 Corinthians 8:1-2

Colossians 3:14

1 Peter 4:8

1 John 4:7-12

DAY 5 JOHN 13:36-38 – A Painful Reality

21. What did Simon Peter want to know? What did Jesus tell him? v.36

22. What claim did Peter make and how did Jesus respond? vv.37-38

23. Why do you think Peter made such a bold claim, only to be told by Jesus that he would deny Christ 3 times before the rooster crowed?

Matthew 26:31-35

24. Peter and all the disciples except John actually did die for their faith. What is the difference between bold claims of faith and genuine faith?

1 Corinthians 1:27-31

25. How have you experienced the difference between boasting in your own strength vs. boasting in the Lord?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Have you ever denied Jesus, or been a bit of a secret Christian? God knew from the beginning that you would fail Him. We humans do that. But He is quick to forgive and ready to strengthen us. When we admit our failings and surrender to God, He gives us strong faith. Boast in the Lord, not in yourself!

John 13

Love and Betrayal

One of the most poignant evenings in history was this Passover meal which is recorded in all four Gospels. (Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22) John did not include the institution of the Lord's Supper, (aka. Eucharist or Communion) but the other gospels did. John began this chapter with, "Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." (v.1) Jesus did indeed love His disciples well, especially on this night when He knelt down and washed their feet. It was unheard of for a Rabbi to do this for his students, and even harder to imagine the Son of God doing so. No wonder Peter was reluctant and couldn't understand what Jesus was doing. Because of his reverence for Jesus, Peter viewed this foot-washing as highly inappropriate. But when Jesus said one could have no share with Him if he refused to be washed by Him, Peter leapt to the other extreme and wanted Jesus to wash his hands and head too. We must appreciate Peter's devotion as it came from a sincere, though confused, place. The truth is that one is initially bathed in Christ by repenting of sin and being completely cleansed one time for eternal life, as is symbolized in baptism. Because we still sin, we must confess our sins as they occur, not to insure our salvation, but to stay in close communion with God. Part of how Jesus loved His own was to set this example of humble service and we are blessed if we serve others with the same humble love.

It is difficult to imagine how Judas could walk with Jesus and then so blatantly betray Him. Judas simply did not believe in Jesus, in spite of all he had seen and experienced with Him. Jesus washed Judas' feet, yet Judas did not know Him. Jesus said Peter and the other disciples were "clean" (saved), yet one was not (Judas). The disciples did not seem to grasp the exchange between Jesus and Judas, but when Jesus dipped the bread and Judas accepted it, it was as if the deal was sealed. Judas gave the devil a foothold

by not caring for the poor and helping himself to the ministry money, but he fully opened the door when he took the bread. Jesus quoted Psalm 41:9 which David wrote when he was betrayed by his trusted friend and counselor, Ahithophel, who joined David's son Absalom's rebellion. Sadly, both Ahithophel and Judas committed suicide because of their guilt and betrayal. (2 Samuel 17:23; Matthew 27:3-10) We all deserve death because of our sin (Romans 6:23), but suicide is never the answer because it cannot make up for sin. Repentance is the answer and Jesus is ready to forgive us as He proved when He died on the cross to atone for our sins.

WALK IN TRUTH



Jesus showed us how to love, and the hour has come for us to follow His example. Jesus reconciled us to God on the cross and He has given us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18) The most effective way for us to carry on Christ's ministry is through love. When we love one another, people see Christ by the love they see in us. But our confidence must be in the Lord alone. It is easy to think highly of ourselves, and our "strong" faith and good works. Peter sincerely loved Jesus, and meant well in claiming he would lay down his life for Jesus, but he did not recognize his own immaturity and weakness. Nor did the other disciples who had a lively discussion about who was the greatest among them while their Lord was preparing to die on the cross for them. (Luke 22:24-30) Peter needed to rely on God's strength and so do we. When we admit our weaknesses and trust in Him, He will be our strength. God said told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Notes