



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: LESSON 14 "COME AND SEE"

This week we will begin looking at what is sometimes called "The Upper Room Discourse" by scholars. While chapters 1-12 centered on the rejection of Jesus by the nation, chapters 13-17 focus on the disciples who did receive Him. We shift from public ministry to private ministry. This is also seen as Jesus' farewell address to those whom He loved so dearly. He knew the hour of His death was approaching and He knew that the disciples' world was soon to be shattered. They would be confused, disappointed, and afraid. He spends the next few chapters talking about the upcoming events, while comforting them at the same time.

John's Gospel is not identical to the other Synoptic Gospels. In John chapter 12, John writes about the coming of the Greeks instead of the second time Jesus cleanses the Temple, like the other Gospel writers. Now John substitutes a foot washing at the point where the Synoptics place the Last Supper. It's also important to remind ourselves of the timing of this event. Jesus had entered Jerusalem on the donkey on Sunday, and on Monday had cleansed the Temple. On Tuesday, the religious leaders tried to gather evidence to arrest Him (Matthew 21-25). Our story today takes place in the Upper Room on Thursday, where He met the disciples to observe Passover. The next five chapters record very important and intimate words of Jesus Christ Himself. I pray that we listen up and pay attention to all that the Holy Spirit has to say to us.

Day One

1. Read John 13:1-38. For each section, observe and list the facts you find. Also title each section, summarizing the main point.

Verses 1-20

Verses 21-30

Verses 31-38

2. Are there any repeated words or phrases?

3. How would you describe the **"tone"** of this chapter? (The tone is a manner of speaking or writing that shows a certain attitude of the speaker or writer)

4. Describe the change of focus in this chapter.

5. Did you find any personal challenges?

6. Why is this chapter so significant?

7. What great truths are taught in this chapter?

Tomorrow we will begin to break down this chapter a bit more. I pray that His Word would make a great impact on your heart this week, which would then result in a changed life.

Memory Verse of the Week: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another."
John 13:34

Second Day

Review your memory verse. Do you love others?

1. Read John 13:1-18. John lets us know that Jesus and the disciples are having a meal before the Passover, and Jesus "knew that His hour had come." This refers to the time when He would be glorified through His death, resurrection, and ascension. He was on a mission with a timetable that came specifically from Heaven. Read the following instances of Jesus referring to "His hour." Describe the situation in which this phrase was used.
 - A. John 2:4
 - B. John 7:30
 - C. John 8:20

D. John 12:23

E. John 13:1

F. John 17:1

2. Jesus knew His arrest, torture, and death was near. Who is He thinking about, the disciples or Himself?
3. Most scholars believe that Luke 22:24 explains what was happening at the table before Jesus got up and washed their feet. Why would this prompt Jesus to move to action?

Verse 1 tells us that Jesus "loved them to the end," or to the "uttermost." This means that He loved them to the furthest extent, with a perfect love. He proved this not only by washing their feet, but by dying on the cross. The word "depart" is used here to speak of a transfer from one sphere to another. According to John Phillips, "Death would not interrupt His being; it would only change its mode. He was going to depart out of this world, but His loved ones were to be still in the world. That fact brought a flood of feeling to His heart."

John inserts a note about Jesus' betrayer, Judas Iscariot, whom he mentions 8 times in his Gospel. The word "Iscariot" probably means "man of Kerioth," which is a town in Southern Judea. On the devil "putting" it into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus, John MacArthur claims that "this does not exonerate Judas because his wicked heart desired exactly what the devil desired." Many Bible scholars translate that line as "satan had already prompted Judas." Other scholars believe that this is a reference to the devil's own heart. They suggest that satan had determined in his own heart to use Judas as his victim and his instrument to betray and destroy the Lord. For example, F. F. Bruce translates this passage, "The devil had already resolved that he would use Judas to betray Him." Either way, the devil prompted, but Judas acted.

It was a custom of the day to wash the feet of your guests as they arrived at your home. Their feet would get dusty and dirty from traveling, and usually the servant was the one who performed this function. Obviously no one had taken it upon themselves to do it. Imagine sitting there at the table, and all of a sudden, Jesus gets up, takes off His outer garment, which was usually taken off when working, wraps a towel around His waist, fills a basin with water, kneels down and begins to wash their dirty, soiled feet.

4. How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus began washing feet?
5. Jesus washed the feet of His betrayer. What does this tell us about Jesus? What lesson is in that for you and me?
6. How does Peter respond? Why does he respond like this?

Peter reacts in a typical Peter fashion, although I'm sure the others were thinking the same thoughts. There was obviously a deeper lesson to be learned than mere foot washing. Jesus said if Peter didn't allow Him to wash His feet, He would have no part, or no fellowship with Him. Peter does the "pendulum swing" and asks that Jesus bathe the rest of him as well. (I love Peter!)

7. Explain the deeper meaning of this, found in verse 10. (How is the foot washing an illustration of what takes place on the cross?)
8. Who is Jesus referring to when He says there is one "not clean"?

"The cleansing that Christ performs at salvation needs never to be repeated; however, those who have been cleansed by God's gracious justification need repeated washings in the experiential sense in order to maintain pure fellowship with God." (John MacArthur) In other words, when we accept Christ, we are completely bathed, and our sins are washed away and forgiven (1 Cor. 6:9-11, Titus 3:3-7, Hebrews 10:17). As we walk in this world, it's easy to "get dirty." We then need to confess our sins to Him, and He promises to cleanse us (1 John 1:9), which restores our fellowship with Him. There is no place in His fellowship for those who have not been cleansed by His atoning death. Judas, for example.

9. Do you come to the Lord daily, asking Him to cleanse you and purify you? Are you "keeping your feet clean?" If so, what should result in your life?

Much too often Peter uses the words "no" and "Lord" in the same sentence. In the Greek, the phrase in verse 8 reads, "You will never ever wash my feet." Notice that Peter tries to tell the Lord what to do, and how to do it.

10. Are you like Peter in your response to the Lord? Are you quick to tell the Lord how to do it, when to do it, why to do it, and ultimately, what to do? Search your heart on this one. When Peter realized it would cause a break in his fellowship with Jesus, he changed his mind (Although he still told Jesus what to do.) How can you change your usual response?

We'll see you tomorrow. The fact that we have been cleansed by His blood is a "Reason to Rejoice!" Although we only have to bathe once, we must continually come to Him for a daily foot washing. Don't allow pride or selfishness to keep you from coming to the cross.

Third Day

Work on your memory verse. It's a great one!

1. Read John 13:1-20 again. This story is a shadow of what Jesus did on the cross. What other lesson does it teach us?

2. Verse 4 tells us that Jesus "laid aside His garments." How is this an illustration of Philippians 2:5-8? What does this mean?

Jesus is God, yet took on the position of a servant. Wiersbe said that "Humility is not thinking meanly of yourself; it is simply not thinking of yourself at all." He showed His disciples the full extent of His love as He performed this simple act. Michael Card said, "It was indeed an earthshaking event for the Lord of the universe, who knew all authority had been placed into His hands, to use those same hands to wash their dirty feet." Wow.

3. What does Jesus tell them in verse 15? What will be the result, according to verse 17?

This act of foot washing stands for all kinds of acts of self-denying love. There is no act too large or too small for us to do for others. Jesus did something that none of them seemed willing to do, and He did it out of love. He laid aside any pride or sense of dignity to serve them, and we are called to do the same.

4. What are some ways we can "wash one another's feet?"

5. Is there someone in your life whose feet God is calling you to wash? (Acts of service) What is stopping you?

I read that it's not crowns or coronets that are the insignia of the Savior's kingdom, but towels and basins.

6. Is your life characterized by towels and basins? What often stops us from being a servant of all?

7. "Happiness does not consist in knowing, but in doing." What does this quote mean?

8. Concerning the issue of authority, Jesus teaches them that a true leader is a servant. Are you a leader of any kind? How would you describe your leadership style? Are you a servant-leader, or the kind that lords over others? Are there any changes you need to make?

Jesus alludes to Psalm 41:9 in verse 18. Just as David had his Athithophel, Jesus had His Judas. Athithophel was David's counselor that betrayed him, stirring up Absalom's rebellion. Judas was an ambitious, greedy, dishonest, traitor. The eating of bread together symbolizes close fellowship. Charles Swindoll writes: "Most interpret 'lifting up his heel' as a metaphor derived from the image of a horse's hoof preparing to kick, indicating a hurtful or destructive act."

In verse 19, Jesus then, perhaps looking Judas in the eye, declares Himself the "I Am." I wonder what Judas was thinking? I believe at this point Jesus was throwing Him the life preserver one more time, so to speak. Judas throws it back.

9. Jesus wants the pattern of servant-hood to be the pattern for our lives. How can we best teach this to our children?

10. Jesus loved Judas, even washed his feet, knowing that he was about to betray Him. Is there someone in your life that has betrayed you or lifted their heel against you? What should you do?

Fourth Day

What's your memory verse?

In our section today, Jesus reveals even more clearly that there is one of them who will betray Him. Six days earlier, Judas had gone to the high priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" They agreed to give him 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15). From that time on he had plotted ways to betray Him. Now the time had come. But much to Judas' surprise, someone else at the table knew his secret.

Judas had been with the twelve disciples the entire time. He had watched the feeding of the five thousand, and witnessed healings. He had seen devils cast out of people and the dead raised. None of the other disciples suspected him; he was one of them. That thought sends shivers down my spine. You can know people that lead many to Christ, or preach great sermons. You can know someone whose whole life is dedicated to feeding the poor and helping the homeless. That person can even be you! But if God doesn't have control of your heart, and Jesus isn't your Savior, then none of that matters. Ray Stedman said, "The true test of our genuineness as followers of Christ is whether or not we have yielded our

hearts and lives under His Lordship. It doesn't mean that genuine followers of Christ never sin. Rather, it means that we are not content to allow sin to take up permanent residence in our lives. Even though we stumble and fail, our goal is always to repent and return and recommit ourselves to Jesus."

1. Read John 13:21-30. Describe how Jesus felt at that moment.
2. Why were the disciples perplexed, or confused?

Verse 20 says that Jesus was "troubled in spirit." This is the same word used about Him as He was on His way to the tomb of Lazarus (11:33), and when the Greeks came to Him (12:27). Jesus was now about to take the last step in exposing His friend Judas, and He was greatly troubled over it, most likely for the loss of his eternal soul. The thought of someone about to betray Jesus seemed to trouble the disciples as well. All except Judas, although he must have trembled inside when he realized Jesus knew what he was about to do.

3. Why do you think Peter asks John (the disciple whom Jesus loved) to find out whom Jesus was talking about?
4. What, did Jesus say, would mark the betrayer?
5. Why did the disciples still not get it, even after Jesus gives Judas the piece of bread?

Let's look at the seating arrangements for a moment. The Jews did not sit at traditional tables as we know them. Their tables were described as "low, solid blocks with pillows or pallets around them for the guests to recline upon" (see vs 23a). They would recline on their left side, leaving their right hand free to eat with. John, the beloved disciple, must have been sitting on Jesus' right side, which was a position of honor. Most likely Judas sat at Jesus' left, as we seem Him speaking privately to him. The left hand was known as the place of the "intimate friend." Perhaps Judas had been a very close friend. Peter seemed to have been sitting some distance away, and not knowing who the betrayer was about to kill him! He beckons to John to find out. In Matthew's account, Judas actually asked Jesus, "Rabbi, is it I?" to which Jesus replied, "You have said it." (Matthew 26:25).

In those days, it was customary to dip a special morsel in the sauce and present it to the honored guest, similar to the custom of our day of proposing a toast. Perhaps this is also one reason that the disciples didn't suspect Judas, thinking he was Jesus' honored guest.

6. What happened after Judas accepted the bread?

John Philips writes: "The rejection of the Lord's final appeal, marking him out for a gesture of special friendship and honor, so hardened the heart of Judas against Christ that it was now possible for Satan to move in and take full possession of the man. Up to this moment Judas had been possessed by an evil intention. Now he was possessed by the evil one." Accepting the bread sealed Judas' fate, and Jesus, always in control, dismisses Judas from the table. Judas had exchanged the Bread of Life for a cup of death.

7. Why are the words "And it was night" so significant? (Note John 12:35)

8. What application do you see for yourself in this section? How can you apply it to yourself?

Judas sold his own soul for thirty pieces of silver. The thought of it is frightening. Ladies, don't ever sell out -- give your life to Jesus!

Fifth Day

Write out your verse from memory.

Jesus' tone changes in verse 33. He is now very clear. He lets them know His departure is near, people will be confused, and nobody can come with Him.

1. Read John 13:31-38. As Judas leaves, Jesus says, "Now the Son of Man is glorified." What is He talking about? (Why didn't He say, "My betrayal is coming"?)

In verse 33, Jesus calls the disciples "little children." This is the first time He uses this phrase for them. I wonder if He was waiting for Judas to leave ...

2. What new commandment does Jesus give them? (Read Leviticus 19:18) Why was it "new"?
3. Why will the world know we belong to Jesus by how we love one another?
4. How can we love others as "Christ loved us"?

Jesus' command is fresh and unique. It is an attitude and a lifestyle. Leon Morris said this: "Love itself is not a new commandment. The new thing appears to be the mutual affection that Christians have one for another on account of Christ's love for them. Jesus Himself sets the example and calls them now to follow in His steps." Jesus uses the word "agape" in verse 35. One definition is that "it seeks the highest good of another. It refuses to respond negatively, refuses to reject, refuses to demand conditions, and refuses to nitpick the lint off someone's soul." Our standard for loving others is Jesus' love for us. Jesus did what He did because He loves you and me. He loves us despite our faults, selfishness, and stubbornness. His interest was not in Himself, but in us. Now ... He calls us to love others in the same way. Love is the mark of a Christian.

5. How are you doing on the "love-o-meter"? Spend some time meditating on these questions:

A. How can I better show Christ's love to those in my home?

B. How can I better show Christ's love in my church?

C. How can I better show Christ's love to my neighbors?

D. Can people tell I belong to Jesus by my love for others?

6. Ask the Lord to reveal any selfishness in your heart. (I know it's ugly to look at, but recognizing it is the first step in getting rid of it!)

Peter seems to tune in to the fact that Jesus is departing. He skips over the new commandment and wants to know where He's going. **Read verses 36-38.**

7. What does Peter's response to Jesus reveal about him?

8. How can "self-confidence" get in the way of complete surrender? (How is Peter an example of this?)

Peter seems to be a bit boastful at this point. Jesus tells him that he will deny Him three times before the rooster crows. The word used for deny means "to deny utterly." We see that Peter was willing to die for Jesus, but was having a problem living for Him. Peter was soon to deny the Lord that he loved so much. We can't fault Peter, for we deny the Lord in many ways ourselves. Peter failed to follow the new commandment that Jesus had just given them.

9. What are some ways that we, as Christians, can deny the Lord in our daily life?

10. Are you willing to live for the Lord? Are you willing to die to yourself to live for Him? What exactly does that mean? What place do surrender, obedience, and holiness play in that?

Jesus knew that not only Judas, his enemy, was about to betray Him, but also Peter, one of His closest friends, would do the same. It's comforting to know that although Judas never walked with Jesus again, Peter repented and was broken before the Lord. Peter was used in a mighty way to begin the church as seen in the book of Acts. We can also tell from his writings that he became a humble man. Way to go, Peter!

11. Jesus loved His enemies. He loved those that persecuted Him; He loved them 'till the end. As He hung on the cross, He prayed, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). Are you having a hard time loving the one who is hurting you? How can His example be a pattern for us to follow?

C. S. Lewis wrote, in his book The Four Loves, "It is probably impossible to love any human being simply 'too much.' We may love him too much in proportion to our love for God; but it is the smallness of our love for God, not the greatness of our love for the man, that constitutes inordinacy."

13. Do you love others more than you love God? Take some time to think about that.

God bless you, ladies, as you study His Word. Isn't the Gospel of John incredible? I pray that you are getting to know Jesus more intimately than you ever have, and that your desire to serve Him is growing by leaps and bounds!

