

John 13: Lord and Teacher

Lesson Theme: God Really is Love—He is Love in the Flesh of Jesus Christ.

1 John 4:9-11—

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

John 13:1-17: Washing the Disciples' Feet

1. God is love. This is most apparent from this moment forward until Jesus' death on the cross (John 13:1).
2. Jesus' love was demonstrated through the act of washing all His disciples' feet as a lowly slave, including Judas, who would betray Him (John 13:2-5).

We saw Mary perform the same act for Jesus in [John 12:1-3](#).

3. Jesus' dialogue with Peter about Him washing his feet points to the fact that obedience to God is something we may not understand now, but will "[after this](#)" (John 13:6-9).

(Specifically, after the rapture of the church and up in heaven at the judgment seat of Christ for believers at the seventh trumpet.)

Revelation 1:19—

"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place [after this](#)."

Revelation 4:1—

After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing open* in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place [after this](#)."

The Seventh Trumpet/the Judgment Seat of Christ: [Revelation 11:15-19](#); [1 Cor. 3:9-15](#)

4. Jesus was re-iterating the fact that once we are born-again, we are completely clean. Foot washing is a sign of love, respect, and submitting to one another out of love for God (John 13:10-11).
Jesus already knew that Judas would never be born-again. But He washed his feet anyway.

2 Timothy 2:19—

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

5. Jesus Himself demonstrated that we are to serve one another in love. We will be like Jesus when we do (John 13:12-17).

Galatians 5:13-14—

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

John 13:18-38: That You Love One Another

6. Jesus used Judas’ disobedience as a teachable moment to show that He alone is God. Jesus always takes even the worst and turns it around for good and for His glory (John 13:18-21).

It also shows the depth of Jesus’ heartbreak over the loss of Judas.

Psalm 41:9—

Even **my own familiar friend** (Heb: אִישׁ שְׁלוֹמִי “*eesh shalom-ee*”—the Hebrew indicates the depth of the closeness of this friend—literally “man of my peace”) **in whom I trusted,**
Who ate my bread,
Has lifted up his heel against me.

7. The Father took such good care of His Son in this moment through the apostle John. John’s act of leaning on Jesus’ bosom encouraged Jesus to keep moving forward because a redemption for humanity was coming through Him, and His creation made in His image (man and woman) would freely be able to love Him again and be His true familiar friend. That’s what the act of leaning on the bosom means (John 13:22-30).
8. As Jesus Himself was departing from the world, His followers are **“to love one another as I have loved you.”** That is how Jesus Himself will be shown in the world (John 13:31-35).
9. Peter’s denial will show that only through the power of the Holy Spirit—God Himself dwelling in us—will we be able to love Jesus and lay down our life for Him. Peter had yet to experience that giving of the Holy Spirit, therefore, his flesh will deny Jesus at the very moment of Jesus’ betrayal and arrest. It once again reminded Jesus the importance of Him going to the cross for humanity to be restored to Him again (John 13:36-38).

Conclusion:

- The depth of Jesus’ love for His creation, made in His image, cannot be overstated. His heart broke at the loss of Judas in every way. He truly considers us to be His friend. Will we choose to respond to this invitation to such a deep, personal friendship with God? If we do, we will experience the peace, the “*shalom*” of God, in ways we cannot even imagine, both now and for all eternity!