

The Year of Discipleship in 3-D

(Further Developing Devoted Followers of Christ)



Welcome! Growing into more fully-devoted followers of Christ, may this time help all: **Grow Upward** into a more mature personal relationship and commitment to Christ Jesus faithful to God's Word!

Grow Outward to neighbor and world around, learning how to love well and to lead in what matters to God - guided by God's Word, by Jesus Himself, and by the Holy Spirit!

And, **Grow Inward** to discover a more contemplative faith, enhanced by both silence and prayer!

The Scripture for Sunday, March 13, 2022

[STUDY LESSON 28]

THE GOOD NEWS READING:

John 13:1-17

{1} Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. {2} The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper {3} Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, {4} got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. {5} Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. {6} He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" {7} Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." {8} Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." {9} Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" {10} Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." {11} For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

{12} After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? {13} You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. {14} So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. {15} For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. {16} Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. {17} If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

DISCUSSION GUIDANCE AND QUESTIONS:

For an overview of John consider watching: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/john/>

For an overview of John 13-21 consider watching: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/john-13-21/>

1. Open (*or have someone in the group open*) with a prayer inviting the work of the Holy Spirit to open up the hearts and lives of any and all to shape believers into more fully devoted following of Christ.
2. Read (*or have one or more persons read*) the passage printed above (*or from a bible*). words or phrases caught your attention as your heard this passage read? Put another way, were you to choose to memorize a verse and cherish it from this text, what verse might that be and why? Take note within yourself, what sort of feelings arise in that word, phrase, or verse?
3. BACKGROUND NOTES: The Passover festival forms both a timetable (third Passover during Jesus public ministry) and a foreshadowing of Jesus' death ("to depart from this world" - John 13:1). Though not a miraculous sign, the accompanying dialogue and discourse evidences the need for Jesus' clarification of meaning. "The hour has come" harkens back to the first sign of "Wedding in Cana" (John 2) when His hour "has not yet come." Woven into the text of "cleansing" are both that of Judas, who would betray Jesus and Peter who would deny. "Washing" links with the man born blind healing.

4. Have you ever participated in what might be a typically Maundy Thursday service where “foot washing” was part of the rite? What was that experience like for you either as a recipient of the act or one who performed the washing upon someone else?
5. Consider and reflect upon how it is that “He loved them to the end” (*John 13:1*) in light of those present for this meal, namely Judas, Simon Peter, and the rest of the disciples. To add to your contemplation, notice that Simon Peter’s objection to the foot washing might be best translated, “You will never *ever* wash my feet.” (*John 13:7*)
6. Recall, if you are able, the only other occasion in John that references “washing,” that of the healing of the man born blind whom Jesus instructed to “Go, *wash* in the pool of Siloam.” (*John 9:7*) What insights or connections might be made with this narrative regarding eyes opening, cleansing, believing, and recognizing Jesus?
7. Though not covered in these studies, Jesus was previously in the home of Lazarus (*John 12:1 ff*) where Mary anoints the feet of Jesus with costly perfume, “for the day of my burial.” Here there is washing. What implications for any future could be indicated?
8. Given the deliberate nature of the description (*see John 13:3-5*) of Jesus’ act of washing the disciples’ feet, and even that it was during supper (*John 13:2b*), what might we conclude given such detail? How might Jesus’ later declaration, “Very truly, I tell you, the one who believe in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father,” (*John 14:12*) inform our interpretation of this “example” or modeling by Jesus?
9. Reflect upon how Jesus’ love here stands in contrast to Judas impending betrayal and the clear presence of evil? Put another way, how is it that we might understand the prospect of “washing the feet” of our betrayers?
10. What are we making known about Jesus when we are obedient in how we “wash one another’s feet?” (*John 13:14*) What message is being sent?
11. How have you ever experienced or know the results of Jesus final statement to His disciples, “If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them?”
12. Spend some time talking or reflecting upon simple humility and service as an aspect of discipleship. If willing, share (*or personally identify within yourself*) an aspect of your life where you believe God is calling upon you to exhibit a greater degree of both.
13. What is your main discipleship “takeaway” from this text?
14. Can you identify any particular ways your Christian faith and following might be inspired to change in light of this passage from the Bible (and any discussion and/or reflection that may have taken place)?
15. (*Optional*) Read the passage once more. Then, take some time to close (or have someone close) with a prayer.