

JESUS' LAST WEEK: JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY

Matthew 6:10; Matthew 6:31-33;
John 13:2-20



STUDY & REFLECTION

Although not entirely clear, the events of the Passover night appear to be in this order:

1. Jesus and the disciples sit at the tables
2. The contention who is to be the greatest
3. The washing of the disciples feet
4. Jesus identifies Judas as the betrayer
5. Judas leaves
6. The institution of the Lord's Supper
7. Jesus words in the room
8. Jesus words between the room and the garden
9. Jesus words in the garden

John 13:2-20 contains another of the great teachings of Jesus to His disciples, then and now. We should note that what prompted this demonstration by Jesus, was the contention among the twelve of who should be the greatest!

Jesus did something extraordinarily provocative. He took off His robe, girded Himself with a towel, took a basin of water, **and proceeded to wash the disciples' feet!** We know that the washing of the feet of guests was a common practice and sign of hospitality, but performed by the lowest servant. This is why Peter, so respecting Jesus, protested that he would not allow Jesus to wash his feet. Note the words of our Lord:

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No" said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." John 13:7-8 (NIV)

Jesus then further explains to them **the principle that is for all those who are His disciples, throughout the ages:** John 13:12-17 (NIV):

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.

You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

ACTION ITEMS

Placing yourself in the setting of this Last Supper setting:

- What lessons are taught by Jesus in the John 13 passage?
- To what extent have you embraced and practiced these lessons?

INVOLVING OTHERS

Discuss with your group this very dramatic and challenging section of teaching.

Share and conclude as a group **what this scenario teaches us, and how are we to embrace and practice them.**