

C H A P T E R

◇ 13

Read the entire chapter. It gives John's account of what has been entitled "The Last Supper." Much fuller accounts are given in the other Gospels. See Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-38. However, John relates the washing of the disciples feet, which is not found in any of the other accounts.

Verse 1. Jesus knew that the hour of persecution was nearing. You or I in such a position, would either be feeling sorry for ourselves or trying to build up our courage to meet the situation. Our thoughts would be centered upon ourselves, but Jesus' thoughts were for His disciples, "Having loved His own, He loved them unto the end."

- 280.** True or False? Jesus, knowing that persecution and death on the cross awaited Him, thought only of the suffering He was about to endure and cared little about what would happen to His disciples.

Verse 2. In this verse, the author told us that Satan put it into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus. He would not have been able to do this if Judas had not been willing. Judas had some self-serving motive that we do not understand.

- 281.** Judas was tempted by _____ to betray Jesus.

Verses 3 through 5. Jesus, knowing who He was, that He had come from and would return to God, and that He was doing God's will, had the confidence to take upon Himself the garb and to perform the duties of a lowly servant, without lowering His stature in the eyes of His disciples. It was a lesson in humility needed by His disciples and still needed by Christians.

- 282.** The washing of the disciples feet by Jesus was a lesson in _____.

Verses 6 through 8. Peter, the outspoken one, was the only one who objected to Jesus' action. When Jesus came to him, Peter said in effect, "What do you mean washing my feet?" Jesus replied, "I do not expect you to understand now but later on you will." Peter said, "I will never let you wash my feet." Jesus answered, "If I do not wash your feet, you and I will part company."

- 283.** True or False? Peter was the only one of the disciples who objected to Jesus washing his feet, but Jesus informed him that they would part company if he did not submit to having his feet washed.

Verses 9 through 11. After this exchange, Peter submitted and asked Jesus to wash not only his feet but also his hands and head. Jesus replied that one who had bathed needed only to wash his feet to be entirely clean. All of you (disciples) are clean with one exception. Primarily, the washing of the disciples' feet taught humility, but Jesus used it also to teach the need for inner cleanness. Judas was the one who was not clean.

284. Through this incident, Jesus taught not only humility, but also the necessity to _____ to His authority, and the need for inner _____.

Verses 12 through 15. Jesus had previously told Peter he could not understand. Note: He asks all the disciples if they have understood what He has done. None reply, and Jesus probably did not expect a reply, for He immediately tells them that He has given them an example that they should follow.

285. Jesus washed the disciples feet to give them an _____ of right attitude and conduct.

Verses 16 and 17. One needs to know the customs of the time to understand what Jesus was teaching here. All the people wore sandals and it was customary for the host to have a servant near the entrance with a basin of water and a towel to wash the dust from the feet of the guests as they entered and slipped off their sandals. But this was a "no host" meal and none of the disciples had been willing to take the place of a lowly servant. They were self-centered and full of pride. Therefore, Jesus, by His example, taught them the need for humility. "If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet." Does this mean that "foot washing" should be practiced in assemblies of Christians today? Most commentators are agreed that this is not something that is commanded and probably would be embarrassing in today's society. Personally, I believe that there is a place for "foot washing," not as an ordinance performed in public, but as an example. Many congregations have been split by power struggles between two strong minded individuals. If a pastor, seeing such a struggle developing, would call these individuals to his home, read the above scripture, and then wash the feet of each, I believe these individuals would get the message.

286. True or False? The disciples were too proud to do the work of a servant and Jesus, by His example, wished to change their attitude to that of a humble servant. He did not impose "foot washing" upon His followers as an ordinance.

Verses 18 through 20. Jesus was still trying to prepare His disciples for His departure. He knew that it will be a terrible shock to them but that it was all a part of God's plan. Prophecies of His betrayal and death could be found in their scriptures. That He knew beforehand the one who would betray Him was another proof of His divinity. After those terrible things had happened, the disciples would look back and remember that Jesus had foretold them and their faith could be strengthened. Also, Jesus said that believing Him is the same as believing and receiving God, the God who had sent Him.

287. Two truths were taught in this passage: (1) Jesus knew _____ the one who would betray Him. (2) Jesus had previously taught that He and the Father were one, so it follows that he that receiveth the Son, _____ the Father.

Also, it is true that receiving the messengers Jesus sends out is the same as receiving Jesus.

Verse 21. After saying these words, Jesus became very troubled in spirit and exclaimed, "One of you is going to betray me." Jesus knew all things from the beginning. He knew the time of His betrayal by one of His own followers, the ensuing suffering of the trial, the mocking and the beating, and then following that, the agony of the cross. The thoughts of all of this was almost too much.

288. The thought that one of His disciples would _____ Him troubled Jesus very much.

Verses 22 through 25. The other Gospel writers gave fuller account of this incident, some saying that each of the disciples asked, "Is it I, Lord?" John seemed very modest in his writings, never using the person pronoun "I" but referring to himself as the Disciple whom Jesus loved. He was leaning on Jesus' breast at the time so Peter motioned to him to ask the Master to whom He was referring. Then John asked Jesus, "Lord, who is it?"

289. John referred to himself as "the Disciple whom Jesus loved," and it was he who _____, "Lord, who is it?"

Verses 26 and 27. Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this crust of bread after I have dipped it in the sauce." Then He dipped the crust and gave it to Judas Iscariot. The text says that immediately after receiving the bread, Satan entered into Judas. Jesus said to him, "Do what you are about to do right away." Judas had apparently determined beforehand what he was going to do. If he were a normal person, it would seem that when he found out that Jesus was aware of his treachery, he would have repented and asked forgiveness, but Judas' heart was hardened. The text says that on receiving the sop from Jesus, Satan entered into his heart, but Satan could not have entered if Judas has not opened the door to him.

290. True or False? Judas should not be held responsible for betraying Jesus because Satan made him do it.

Verses 28 and 29. None of the other disciples knew what Jesus had said to Judas but some thought, since he was the treasurer of the group, that Jesus had given him orders to buy food or perhaps to make a charitable gift to some poor person.

291. When Judas left, the other disciples speculated on what his purpose might have been because they did not _____ what Jesus had said to him.

Verse 30. Judas having received the bread, went out immediately into the night. Many sermons have been delivered with this as a text, and although it was written merely to tell the time of the day, it can be used as a parable. When a person yields to the temptations of Satan, there is always darkness in the person's soul.

292. Judas' going out into the night/darkness is a _____ of what happens when one yields to Satan.

Verses 31 and 32. As soon as Judas had left the room, Jesus said, "Now is the time when the Son of Man shall be glorified, and God will be glorified in Him. The time

is come when the Son will be glorified in the Father and the Father glorified through the Son."

293. True or False? When the Son is glorified, the Father is also glorified.

Verse 33. Jesus said, "My dear children, I am now about to leave you and you will not be able to follow me." Jesus had first addressed His disciples as servants, later as friends, and now as children, the closest and dearest of relationships. What a blessing to be part of "the family of God."

294. As the time for His departure neared, Jesus used the endearing title

" _____ " in addressing His disciples.

Verses 34 and 35. Jesus continued, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another." You should love, as I have loved you. And this is the special thing which shall set you apart from the world and be your distinguishing mark, the love that you show one another. The Christian has only three commandments to keep but these cover everything needed. (1) Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. (2) Love your neighbor as yourself. (3) Love fellow Christians with a special love. Is that the distinguishing mark in your life and in the congregation where you fellowship?

295. Jesus said the badge of discipleship should be the _____ we have, one for another.

Verses 36 through 38. Peter asked Jesus where He was going. Jesus did not answer directly but told Peter that he could not go with Him, but would at some future time follow. Peter was persistent. "Why can I not go with you now?" he said. "I am willing to die for you." Jesus replied, "Will you really lay down your life for me?" I tell you, you will deny me three times before the rooster crows tomorrow morning."

296. The disciples knew that Jesus' life was threatened and Peter boastfully said, "Why can I not go with you now? I am willing to _____ for you." Jesus replied, "Not now but later; you are not prepared, for I know that before the rooster crows, you will _____ me three times."

ANSWERS:

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 280. False | 289. Said or asked |
| 281. Satan | 290. False |
| 282. Humility | 291. Know or understand |
| 283. True | 292. Parable |
| 284. Submit, cleanliness | 293. True |
| 285. Example | 294. Dear (little) children |
| 286. True | 295. Love |

287. Beforehand, receives
288. Betray

296. Die, deny