



April 6, 2025  
*Jesus at the Festivals*  
**THE THIRD PASSOVER (PART 4)**  
John 13:1-20



**Note:** You will notice a format change this week. The prayer section has been moved forward and expanded to place greater emphasis on this most important area. If this leaves less time for Bible study, consider that a good thing. We encourage you to review the weekly *Praises & Prayer Requests* list, which is sent out on Wednesdays, before beginning your prayer time. If you have comments or suggestions about the format, please share them with Pastors Brian, Neil, or Daniel.

**1. Opening Discussion:** (you will probably want to use only one of these openers)

- a. When have you seen love demonstrated in a remarkable way? What made it so impressive? And, without naming anyone, when have you clearly seen the absence of love in a situation where it would have been expected? Based on your observations, do you consider love more as an action verb or an emotion (a noun)?
- b. What is the most degrading job you have ever been required to perform? How seriously did you approach the task? What thoughts were going through your mind before, during, and after that job? Hypothetically, if you could have passed the job off to someone else, would you have done so? And if “yes,” what factors would have influenced who you gave it to?

**2. Prayer:**

- a. Adoration – Pray Psalm 8 or another passage of Scripture that enables you to focus on praising God for who He is in all His majesty and glory, the only One worthy of praise.
- b. Confession – Spend time in silence, allowing the Holy Spirit to bring to mind any sins you need to confess. Keep a paper and pencil handy in case He reminds you of one that requires you to ask forgiveness of someone. Close by reading 1 John 1:9
- c. Thanksgiving – In the spirit of Ephesians 5:20, thank God for answered prayers, for His blessings and gifts, and for the opportunities He provides to serve. Make a point to thank Him for at least one thing that you’ve never given thanks for before.
- d. Supplications – Pray for the needs of others, both physical and spiritual; for the activities of His Church, both locally and around the world; for those who serve Him, including missionaries, pastors, and volunteers; for your personal needs; and for at least some of the items on LRBC’s weekly *Praises & Prayer Requests*. Close by reading 1 John 5:14-15.

**3. Sermon Key Points for John 13:1-20**

- a. At a Celebration of Freedom, Jesus Used His Freedom to Teach About Our Freedom
  - i. The Passover meal celebrates freedom
  - ii. Jesus Did Servant's Work Because He Had All Authority
- b. True Freedom Comes Through the Cleansing of Christ
  - i. You must be washed by Christ to be truly clean and free of sin's power and penalty
  - ii. You still need to take your dirty feet to Jesus from time to time
- c. We Must Use Our Freedom to Serve Others, Including Those Against Us
  - i. Jesus washed feet to show us how to use our freedom in Him
  - ii. How will you use your freedom to wash the feet of others?

**4. Bible Study:**

- a. ***Sunday Afternoon*** – As soon as possible after the sermon, make time to consider:
  - i. What one thing stood out to you the most in this sermon?
  - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
  - iii. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
  - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
  - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. ***Monday:***
  - i. Read John 13:1-20 a couple of times, once quickly to get the big picture and then slowly meditating on what is being said. If you are in a group setting, it may be helpful to read it dramatically with a narrator and different individuals reading Jesus and Peter's words.
  - ii. Chapter 13 begins Jesus' "farewell sermon" to His disciples, commonly called the "Upper Room Discourse," and we see a dramatic change in pace. The first 12 chapters of John cover three years and are sometimes called "The Book of Signs." The next six chapters (13-18) describe a single evening during which Jesus emphasizes the things He most wants His disciples to learn before He goes to the cross – His "takeaway messages" – and is referred to as "The Book of Glory".
  - iii. Like many sermons, the introduction we are considering this week provides a hint at what the main points will be and is a wonderful attention-getter.
    1. What are three or four main themes that you can detect from reading verses 1-20?
    2. Jesus is shown in four relationships in this passage, which will continue to be emphasized in the chapters that follow. What are they?
    3. In his introduction, John also tells us several things that Jesus knew. What are four or five things we're told Jesus knew? What is the significance of that knowledge?
- c. ***Tuesday:***
  - i. Read John 13:1-17.
  - ii. The last sentence or phrase of verse 1 is crucial in setting the stage for the object lesson that follows. What do you understand John to be saying? How would you paraphrase it? What is meant by "the end"?
  - iii. How does verse 2 show us that even as Jesus prepares for the object lesson He is going to give the Disciples, He is fully aware of what the cost of that love will be?
  - iv. One theme in this passage is servanthood, captured in the example of Jesus washing the Disciple's feet.
    1. Before proceeding, read Luke 22:24. There is little agreement on how to reconcile the timeline of events in the Synoptic Gospels with John's account, but it seems most likely that the dispute occurred after the foot-washing. What would that say about what the Disciples learned from Jesus' example?

2. This foot-washing has been called a “visual parable.” Why do you think Jesus washes His Disciple’s feet instead of just giving a sermon about love or another of His wonderful verbal parables?
3. What do you think Peter’s initial responses to Jesus say about his mindset? How might the dispute Luke mentions have been at least partially responsible for Peter’s responses? When you read Peter’s revised response in verse 9, does it seem he has had a change of heart, or are the same motives at work?
4. Jesus tells Peter he will understand “later.” What do you think He meant by “later”? How might “later” relate to “end” in verse 1 and to what Jesus “knew” about His future in verses 1 and 3?
5. John does not tell us but think about/discuss how Judas might have felt and reacted to Jesus washing his feet.

*d. Wednesday:*

- i. Read and meditate on John 13:12-17.
- ii. Jesus begins His explanation of this act of service with a question that we should all probably personalize. How would you respond if Jesus asked you: “Do you understand what I have done to you?”. The NIV and CSB say “done for you,” but the ESV says “done to you.” Without worrying about the Greek, which communicates most powerfully to you? Which would be most difficult to answer?
- iii. While some see aspects of Jesus’ washing the feet of the Disciples as pointing to His coming death, that is certainly not the case with verse 14 since we cannot die for anyone’s sins. But do you think verses 14 and 15 tell us we should practice foot-washing? Why or why not?
  1. Would foot-washing in our society today demonstrate the same attitude Jesus demonstrated? What “servant” would you be lowering yourself to by washing someone’s feet?
  2. What alternatives to foot-washing can you think of that would put you in a situation similar to what Jesus is describing?
- iv. What two aspects of being a disciple of Christ does He mention in verse 17? Compare this verse with Luke 11:28 and James 11:22. Why are both aspects equally important? Why do you think Jesus included this instruction among those He gave during His final hours?

*e. Thursday:*

- i. Read John 13:1-20 looking for all the references to Judas. Judas’ betrayal is a second theme of these verses and the ones which will be considered next week.
- ii. John mentions Judas eight times in his Gospel. Read John 6:70-71, 12:4-6, 13:2, 13:26-30, 18:2-3, and 18:5.
  1. What can be learned about Judas from these passages?
  2. What fact that we are told about Judas makes it seem obvious that the other Disciples trusted him?
  3. Although Jesus clearly knew who was going to betray Him when He selected the Twelve Apostles (John 6:70-71), why did He choose Judas (see verse 18 and John 17:12)?
  4. That Judas never was a believer is affirmed in John 6:64 and so was susceptible to what Satan wanted to accomplish through him. How does Ephesians 6:12-17

provide us with assurance that we can avoid a similar, although certainly not identical, fate?

- iii. How does verse 19 show that even in Judas' betrayal, Jesus is using all events for His and His Father's ultimate glory?

f. ***Friday:***

- i. Read and meditate on John 13:1-20 & 34-35.
- ii. A third theme of this chapter is the command to love. Although the command is not explicitly stated in the focal passage (verses 1-20), it is clearly introduced in verse 1 and demonstrated throughout the passage.
  - 1. In which verses do you see love demonstrated in verses 1-20?
  - 2. Is there any possible way that we could follow Jesus' example of servanthood apart from love? If we tried to be a servant without love, what would we probably be doing?
- iii. Why is the command Jesus gives in verses 34-35 more authoritative for us today than those He gave concerning foot-washing in verses 14-15? In what ways are they complementary, or perhaps should be viewed as one and the same?
- iv. John clearly embraced the Lord's command and not only made it a theme in his Gospel but carried that theme onto his epistle. Read and meditate on 1 John 4:7-21 as you close today's study.

g. ***Saturday:***

- i. Read John 13:1-20 once again. By now, it should be very familiar, but read slowly, pondering the truths that are presented. As you read, look for the various relationships that Jesus had and consider what lessons we can learn from how He related to others.
  - 1. Jesus' most important relationship was with His Father. How is it characterized here, and how did that relationship influence His actions?
  - 2. Jesus' relationship with Peter is clearly emphasized. How would you characterize it?
  - 3. Jesus demonstrated His relationship with all the disciples by washing the feet of each one, even though Peter received the most attention. What can we learn from His example? Does obeying the commands to love and serve mean treating everyone exactly the same?
  - 4. Jesus' relationship with Judas may be the most difficult for us to understand. How does Matthew 5:43-48 perfectly explain it? Why should this relationship be such a powerfully important example to us?

5. **Application:**

- a. One author, Bill Mounce, likes to say that John 13:13-17 and 34-35 are "Ouch" passages because that is how we should respond in conviction when reading them. When was the last time you heard a new Christian say that they were first attracted to Christ because His followers loved each other so much? But it seems that Jesus says it should be the norm. If not, we really should respond "ouch"!
- b. Often in the church, we hear impassioned pleas to volunteer and "serve God" because of the need for church programs, and that is a good thing we should do, but Jesus seems to tell us that servanthood is better demonstrated by doing for those in need. In the changing American society, needs are emerging in unexpected areas. Are we doing everything Jesus said we should to meet those needs? Ouch!