

## SOME LESSONS FROM A FOOT WASHER

**INTRODUCTION**

John 12-20 describes the last week of Jesus' life. Even though these chapters comprise almost half of John's Gospel, they record the events that take place over the course of a few days. Therefore, a big portion of the material in them is devoted to the subject of Jesus' death and the things that transpired leading up to it. John 13 gives us one of those episodes when it tells us how Jesus washed the disciples' feet which is what we are going to talk about this morning by looking at "4 Lessons from a Foot Washer in this Passage."

**1). You Should Love Others because Jesus Loved You (verses 1-5).**

Verses 1-5 says, *"Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. During supper ... He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded."*

Discussion Question A: Explain this passage in your own words. Why did Jesus wash the disciple's feet at this point in time?

Discussion Question B: Now explain the disciple's response to this event. Why would they have been surprised and convicted? How does that relate to us today?

**2). You Should Love Others because A Slave is Not Greater than His Master (verses 6-17).**

Verses 12-16 says, *"So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet ... Truly, truly, I say to you, slave is not greater than his master.'"*

Discussion Question A: What is it that prompted Jesus to compare the disciples to slaves here?

Discussion Question B: What were the 12 arguing about right before this in Luke 22:24 and how does that shed some insight into His statement to them in this passage?

### **3). You Should Love Others because It Shows that You are a True Disciple (verses 18-30).**

Verses 21-27 says, *“When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.’ ... [John], leaning back thus on Jesus’ bosom, said to Him, ‘Lord, who is it?’ Jesus then answered, ‘That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him.’ So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. After the morsel, Satan then entered into him.”*

Discussion Question A: Why does verse 27 say that Satan entered into Judas? Does this absolve him from his responsibility in betraying Jesus?

Discussion Question B: Did Judas heed Jesus’ call to love others? What did he do instead?

### **4). You Need to Love Others because It is a New Commandment (verses 31-38).**

Verses 34-35 says, *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

Discussion Question A: How is the call to love others a “new commandment?” Can you think of some other passages in the Old Testament that commanded the Jews to love each other?

Discussion Question B: Why does this chapter close by talking about Simon Peter? Was Jesus’ message of love lost on him here? How did Peter demonstrate his repentance later on in life and how does that set him apart from Judas?