

# The Last Supper

## John 13:1-30

### CONNECTING

1. Welcome and opening prayer.
2. Introduce any guests.
3. Describe the last large holiday meal you shared with family or friends.



### LOVING ONE ANOTHER (Deepening Spiritual Growth)



On Sunday the crowds hailed Jesus as King while He rode royally into Jerusalem and up to the temple. But instead of claiming His throne and launching the war of liberation, Jesus again drove the merchants from the Temple and sat down to teach (Luke 19:45-21:38). The crowds were disappointed but the Sanhedrin was not appeased, and one of Jesus' closest disciples was fed up. Jesus had sealed His own fate. By Wednesday He had nothing more to say to the crowds—they had judged themselves by their attitudes toward Him. But He had much more to say to His twelve core disciples and little time to say it. On Thursday evening the thirteen men gathered around a meal; only Jesus knew what would happen before dawn. Read 13:1-38.

### Footwashing (13:1-17)

1. How would you describe Jesus' attitude in 13:1-5?
2. How is the statement, "the Father had put all things under his power" (13:3) consistent with the fact that Jesus is about to be arrested, tortured, and executed?

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**Iscairiot** (13:2). This probably means "man of Kerioth [a town in southern Judea]." "Judas was thus the only one of the Twelve who was not a Galilean." He may have had sympathies with the Judean hierarchy; he may have finally admitted to himself that Jesus was not the Messiah he wanted; none of the Gospels tell us more about his motives than that *the devil had . . . prompted him* to betray Jesus for money (Luke 22:1-6; John 13:2).

**Took off his outer clothing** (13:4). "Jesus stripped to a loin cloth, just like a slave."

**Wash his disciples' feet** (13:5). This was a menial task (recall the symbolism of feet from 1:27 and 12:3). People went barefoot or in sandals, so their feet got muddy and dusty outdoors. Guests' feet were usually washed on arrival at the host's home—certainly before the meal—by a servant, but Jesus did it in the midst of the meal to make a point.

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5. The footwashing has several lessons for the disciples. What lessons or meanings does Jesus state in . . .  
13:8-10?  
13:12-17?

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**Messenger** (13:16). See the note on "sent". The word here is *apostolos*, suggesting the Jewish *shaliach*, the one sent with the authority and obligation to do what the sender would do. Notice that what is done to the *shaliach* is regarded as done to the sender (13:20).

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6. In your judgment, to what extent do 13:16 and 13:20 describe the authority and mission of only a few leaders like the apostles? To what extent do these verses describe your authority and mission? (Give reasons for your view.)

### Judas' betrayal predicted (13:18-30)

**Reclining** (13:23). This was the customary position for the Passover meal. "The usual arrangement . . . was to have a series of couches each for three persons arranged in a U round the table. The host, or the most important person reclined in the centre of the chief couch placed at the junction of the two arms of the U. The guests reclined with their heads towards the table and their feet stretched out obliquely away from it. They leaned on the left elbow, which meant that the right hand was free to secure food. The place of honor was to the left of, and thus slightly behind the principal person. The second place was to his right, and the guest there would have his head on the breast of the host. Plainly this was the position occupied by the beloved disciple." We might have thought that Peter would have the place of honor. But he seems to have been too far from Jesus to whisper a question himself (13:24), and he could scarcely have motioned to John if he was behind Jesus, who was behind John. Judas was near enough to Jesus to receive a piece of food from him (13:26), so he may have had the place of honor. He was the group's treasurer (12:6; 13:29), an important role, and Jesus may have been making a subtle last appeal to him.

7. Why did Jesus predict the betrayal to His disciples, but in a veiled manner (10:18; 13:3, 19)?
8. Peter and Judas both failed Jesus during the closing hours of Passion Week before He died on the cross and both were grieved at what they did (Matthew 27:5; Mark 14:72). How have you been restored when you have failed Jesus and what would you say to another Christian who has failed our Lord? (see also 1 John 1:9)

### SEEKING GOD (Drawing Near to God)



1. Conversational prayer is a very effective way to pray in a small group. It is a prayer that unites people in conversation with God and with each other. Like normal conversations, anyone can speak (pray) as many times as they wish and several people will often pray in agreement for the same request. (Begin your time by praising God for who He is and what He has done.)
2. Consider praying an application prayer, "Lord, help me to do \_\_\_\_\_(what you have show me during this study)?"

### SHARING CHRIST (Declaring the Good News)



1. During the past month, how have you sought to build relationships with those on your Prayer, Care and Share in order to direct them toward a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
2. What activities might we do as a group or with another ministry of our church in order to reach out to our unsaved friends?

### SERVING OTHERS (Demonstrating God's Love)



1. God has called us to serve one another within the church and together to serve those within the community. What effect does it have when Christians demonstrate God's love through simple but tangible acts of service to those who do not yet know Jesus Christ personally?
  - o Volunteer for 2nd Harvest Food Distribution, the fourth Friday of each month. Call Dean Van Der Werf 763-561-0146, [derwerf@comcast.net](mailto:derwerf@comcast.net) or sign-up online [www.brooklynparkchurch.org/2harvest](http://www.brooklynparkchurch.org/2harvest).