



# LENT

## THE WAY OF REPENTANCE

WEEK THREE: FOR MARCH 8 SERMON

# JOHN 13:36-38

## CONTEXT

**Humility:** Jesus begins by washing the disciples' feet. This wasn't just a nice gesture; it was the work of the lowest servant. By doing this, Jesus flips the script on leadership, showing that true greatness is found in service.

**Betrayal:** A heavy tension hangs over the meal. Jesus identifies that one of his own, Judas Iscariot, will betray him. Even with this knowledge, Jesus performs the act of service for Judas, highlighting his radical grace.

**New Commandment:** After Judas leaves, Jesus gives the summary of his ministry and his expectations: "Love one another as I have loved you." This set a new standard for love based on sacrifice rather than just emotion or convenience.

## OPENER/LENT CHECK-IN

How has your time in the reading and fasting guide been this week? What has God been showing you? As you look back on the past week, what are you most excited or nervous about as you continue your Lent practices?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do we learn about man/us from this passage?
2. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?
3. Jesus washed the feet of the man he knew would betray him (Judas), and the man he knew would deny him (Peter). Is there someone in your life whom you find difficult

to serve because of how they've treated you? What would it look like to serve them anyway? *Steer the group beyond just prayer. Yes, PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL, and you should strongly encourage them to START there. But also challenge them not to settle for praying for the difficult people to love, but to actively love them as Jesus did.*

4. Peter was fully convinced of his own strength and loyalty, yet he still faltered. In what areas of your life are you relying on your own willpower rather than asking for help or grace? How can you stay connected to Jesus as the one who can shape you into a more faithful follower of him? *Don't miss the opportunity to help them understand that, as difficult as the road of faithfulness to Jesus can be, JESUS will graciously give us the growth we need.*

## **PARTNER PRAYER TIME** split into pairs

1. Share your reflections on question
2. Ask: How can I hold you accountable to serving this person this week, beyond just prayer?