

IN THE UPPER ROOM WITH HIS APOSTLES

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This week about 2,000 years ago began the week leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. The crowd that put palm branches down for Jesus on Sunday was the same crowd that was yelling “Crucify Him!” on Friday. In the Gospel of John beginning in chapter 13 and ending in chapter 17 we find some of the most touching moments in Jesus’ ministry. These chapters record His final time with the Apostles.

Jesus and the Apostles in the upper room just hours before His crucifixion. Jesus is fully aware of what is about to happen, while His disciples are unaware of His death in a few short hours. It is a time where Jesus teaches some valuable lessons for all to grasp and understand.

Chapter 13 begins with Jesus knowing what is about to happen. It’s supper time and they all are around a table. Satan has already put in Judas Iscariot’s heart to betray Jesus. Picture the room, dimly lit, the Apostles around the table talking, laughing about something that had happened. Jesus stands up, takes His outer garment off, wraps a towel around Himself, picks up a basin of water and begins to go around to each man, including Judas Iscariot, and wash their feet. Just imagine the surprised looks on their faces. Remember, though foot washing was customary, it was done by a slave with the lowest position. Now Jesus is washing their feet.

“He came to Simon Peter, who asked Him, “Lord, are You going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered him, “What I’m doing you don’t understand now, but afterward you will know.” (John 13:6-7) Peter’s question to Jesus is due to confusion and misunderstanding. After all, the Messiah should have given that job to a slave. “You will never wash my feet—ever!” Peter said (John 13:8a.) Jesus replied, “If I don’t wash you, you have no part with Me.” (John 13:8b) Peter’s response is one for all Christians to want. “Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.” (John 13:9)

Christians don’t need water to cleanse them. They need the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse them, and they come in contact with the blood at baptism. “One who has bathed,” Jesus told him, “Doesn’t need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you.” For He knew who would betray Him. This is why He said, “You are not all clean.” (John 13:10-11) Not everyone in the room was clean. Judas Iscariot was not clean. He was a robber and a betrayer of Jesus, just like there are Christians in church services every Sunday that are robbers and betray Jesus by the way they live their life outside of Sunday morning services.

“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. (John 13:12-13)

This passage speaks for itself. See the difference in the way the Apostles referred to Jesus versus the way He refers to Himself. He puts Lord first, then Teacher. He should always be first in the Christian’s life. The second is to follow Jesus’ example of being a servant. If you do these things, there is a reward for you. You will be blessed.

Now Jesus drops a bombshell. “When Jesus had said this, He was troubled in His spirit and testified, “I assure you: One of you will betray Me!” (John 13:21) You could have heard a pin drop. We need to look at Matthew’s account of this for a clearer understanding of what took place next. “Deeply distressed, each one began to say to Him, “Surely not I, Lord?” He replied, “The one who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl—he will betray Me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about Him,

but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” Then Judas, His betrayer, replied, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” (Matthew 26:22-25)

The Apostles look at each other, shocked expressions on their faces. Surely no one of them would do that must have been the thought running through their minds. The Apostles started looking at one another—uncertain which one He was speaking about

Judas must have been shocked to know that Jesus knew of his betrayal. Satan now has full control of Judas, and he leaves the upper room to carry out his betrayal. Now comes Jesus’ institution of the Lord’s Supper. “As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take and eat it; this is My body.” Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He gave it to them and said, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood that establishes the covenant; it is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:26-28)

Now that Judas has left and the Lord’s Supper has taken place, Jesus tells the eleven of His leaving and that they cannot come. However, He does have a new command for them. “I give you a new command: Love one another Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35) Love them no matter how unlovable they are. “For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) “We love because He first loved us.” (I John 4:19)

Jesus was teaching and caring for the Apostles. So much was about to happen that would shake them to their core. It appeared all hope was lost on Friday, but Sunday was coming. Have a blessed week. “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

God Really Loves Us: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yG-Y9bWICw8&list=RDyG-Y9bWICw8&start_radio=1