

## Why Follow Jesus? | Part 5

Lesson 5

John 13:1-20

March 10, 2024

### Jesus Washes Our Feet

#### INTRODUCTION

Building on the “new command” in last week’s lesson in John 13:34-35, we flash back to earlier that evening when Jesus demonstrates servanthood to all. Picture the scene: it is the most important holiday in the Jewish year celebrated by a feast as it had been since the time of Moses. Jesus gathers His disciples for supper. We know the story of what was about to happen, and so did Jesus, but the disciples were clueless about what was going on. In fact, they were arguing about who was the greatest (Luke 22:24). This is while Jesus is giving his last set of directions before He is to be murdered by crucifixion. Time is short!

But He spends part of this precious time not talking but washing the disciples’ feet, which in those days was a task left for the host’s lowest servant—not the dinner host Himself! Why did He do that? Let’s find out!

***Memory verse: “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.” — John 13:14***

Pray, and read John 13:1-20. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

**OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?**

1. What time of year was it, and what was in progress?  
(John 13:1-2)
2. What did Jesus know, and what did He do?  
(John 13:3-5)
3. Who objected to what Jesus was doing and why?  
(John 13:6-10)
4. What else did Jesus know, and how did He hint at this?  
(John 13:10-11 [for extra credit see John 13:21-27])
5. What was the lesson Jesus was trying to teach?  
(John 13:16-17)

## **INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?**

1. Jesus made the arrangements for the Passover meal in a rather unusual way. Should the disciples have known that this meal was different from the others?  
(Mark 8:31; Luke 18:31-34, 22:7-14)
  
2. Feet in ancient Palestine wore sandals and walked on roads and paths that were mostly dirt (think dust and mud) and used by livestock (think urine and feces). The New Testament refers to foot washing (see memory verse) and sandals. What does the Bible reveal about the symbolism of people's feet? How does this amplify this week's memory verse? (Luke 7:36-48; John 1:27; 1 Timothy 5:9-10)

3. Jesus knew He would be betrayed by Judas, yet He washed Judas' feet and did not directly accuse him. What does this reveal about Jesus? (Psalm 41:9; Luke 22:49-51; John 13:18-27; Romans 5:8)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Jesus' point in washing the disciples' feet during the Passover meal was to teach them humility and to be servants, and He'd taught them this lesson before. How, then, could they argue about who would be the greatest? (Proverbs 21:4, 25:27, 29:23; Matthew 20:20-28; John 13:12-17)

