

1. Last week's lesson (Lesson 12) concluded what is often referred to as the Book of Signs. From your reading of this first section of the Gospel of John (the Book of Signs), select one of Jesus' signs (miracles) and comment on why it is especially meaningful to you.

**NOTE: John 13-21 represents the second major part of the Gospel of John: The Book of Glory, so called because this section represents the revelation of God's glory through Jesus' death and resurrection.**

**DAY ONE**

**Read John 13:1-5**

2a. As today's lesson begins, John establishes that the greatest of all Jewish feasts is approaching. What was the feast and from your memory, what did it represent?

b. It was with this great feast in the background that Jesus knew His hour to depart from this world and return to His Father had come. His purpose for coming and departing this world was for one reason alone: LOVE. Record the last sentence of verse 1, an epitaph which expresses His great love for us.

3. According to verse 2, the devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand over Jesus. Look up the word "induced" and choose a definition that speaks to you of how Judas could have been led to this great treachery (and also how the devil tempts us today).

4a. Even though Jesus knew that His hour had come and that one of His own was planning to betray Him, there were three other things of which He was fully aware, according to verse 3. What were they?

b. How would the assurance of these three things have made Jesus feel during this difficult time?

5a. During supper Jesus illustrated to His apostles what He meant in the above verses. Complete the list of His actions recorded in verses 4 and 5.

He rose from supper

He took a towel and

Then he poured water into a basin

And dry them

b. Meditate for a moment on verses 4-5 and then read Luke 22:24-27 and comment on the lesson that Jesus continued to teach His disciples and us.

6. CONNECTION: We all know the expression, “Actions speak louder than words,” but it is hard to imagine a more dramatic illustration of self-giving love “to the last drop” than Christ’s humbly washing the feet of His disciples. Describe an incident when you saw (or read of) someone communicating a message of love by humbling themselves in action rather than with words. Share some details for your small group.

Read and record The Wisdom of Ben Sira (Ecclesiasticus) 3:18, thinking of Jesus’ great love for us and how we are to express His love to others. (This book is commonly known as Sirach.)

## **DAY TWO**

**Read John 13:6-11**

7a. Perhaps with confusion, shock, embarrassment (or even love), Simon Peter asked Jesus in verse 6 if He was going to wash his feet, a task usually reserved for the lowest of slaves. With what words did Jesus respond to Peter in verse 7?

b. Read John 14:26. With this verse in mind, explain what you think Jesus' reply to Peter in verse 7 meant.

8. The foot washing by Jesus of the disciples is considered by scholars to represent and foretell Jesus' death (Martin page 234). Performing this degrading slave's job is thought to parallel His degrading death on the cross, both of which are cleansing acts. Read Philippians 2:6-9 and record verse 8.

9. In verse 8 we read that Peter refused to have Jesus wash his feet, and Jesus replied that Peter would then have no inheritance with Him. What was Peter's answer in verse 9?

10. Read and record the first sentence of verse 10.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** The Church has seen in this verse the need for our ongoing repentance after we have been baptized. In John 13:10 Jesus' comment "one who has bathed" refers to our baptism; "except for the feet" refers to our need to confess our sins AFTER baptism "to cleanse us from all unrighteousness".

11. At the end of verse 10 Jesus says, "... you are clean, but not all of you." From the beginning of verse 11, why does Jesus say this?

12. CONNECTION: Can you relate to Saint Peter? We can almost feel Peter's embarrassment when he realized that he had to let Jesus wash his feet. How often we can be like St. Peter when we reject small acts of kindness on the part of others. It is often easier to give than to receive. Think of a time when you were embarrassed to accept a kind act on the part of another, and yet found it to be just what you needed and was really a "gift from God."

Read and record James 1:17

**DAY THREE**  
**Read John 13:12-20**

13a. Today's lesson continues the Last Supper in the upper room. After Jesus washed the feet of His twelve disciples, put His garments back on and reclined at table, what question did He ask the apostles?

b. Read verses 13-15 and in your own words describe how Jesus explained His actions?

14. Complete the two important ("amen, amen") statements that Jesus made to emphasize that His disciples must humble themselves as He did (verse 16).

Amen, amen I say to you,

nor any messenger greater

15. In verse 17 what did Jesus say to His disciples about understanding this truth?

16a. Jesus knew that not all of them would be blessed because Judas was at table with them. Jesus quoted Psalm 41:10, which foretold betrayal by a friend who "ate his food." What was His reason for sharing this according to the end of verse 19?

b. In verse 19 Jesus told the apostles "From now on I am telling you before it happens so that when it happens you may believe that I AM". Why is it important that Jesus' disciples would know that He was foretelling His destiny, and what is the significance of "I AM"?

17. Jesus then confirmed that He was sending the apostles just as the Father had sent Him. Complete His promise in verse 20.

18. CONNECTION: The word "apostle" comes from a Greek word meaning "to send" or "to send off". Just as Jesus sent His apostles to serve others and to proclaim the Good News, the Lord also sends us all out to "wash the feet" of His people. We can do this in many ways (i.e. serving, teaching, helping, forgiving, etc.). Consider how Jesus has sent you to "wash the feet" of His people over the past few days. What motivated you? What was the result? Have you felt the presence of the Lord as you served others? Share your thoughts with your small group.

Read Mark 10:45 and write a prayer thanking God for the opportunity to serve His creatures.

#### **DAY FOUR**

**Read John 13:21-30**

19a. As today's lesson opens, Jesus was sharing the Passover meal with His apostles. He was deeply troubled and "testified" to them that one of them would betray Him. The disciples were at a loss as to whom He meant. Who was reclined at Jesus side (verses 21-23)?

b. Simon Peter nodded to the disciple whom Jesus loved (traditionally thought to be John the Apostle). What was his reason according to verse 24?

**THINK: Picture yourself as one of the participants at this intimate gathering. What are some of the feelings you might be experiencing. What might you be thinking or saying to the person beside you? Do you feel a twinge of guilt, or doubt about your own sins? Where do you look to find the betrayer?**

20. John leaned back against Jesus' chest. What did "the disciple whom Jesus loved" ask Him (verse 25)?

21. According to verse 26 Jesus responded that "It is the one to whom I hand the morsel after I have dipped it." What did He then do?

22a. In the eastern tradition it was a gesture of honor or of deep friendship for the host to personally hand a piece of food to his guest. Jesus offered a piece of bread to His friend Judas. This was an opportunity to change his mind and his eternity. According to the beginning of verse 27, did Judas accept Jesus' offering? How do you know?

b. What did Jesus then say to Judas (end of verse 27)?

23a. None of the disciples realized that Judas was the betrayer; rather they speculated that since Judas kept the money bag, Jesus had sent him on an errand (verses 28-29). After Judas received Jesus' offering of bread, what did he do (first sentence of verse 30)?

b. “And it was night.” This is one of the shortest sentences in scripture yet one of the most poignant. Reread John 3:19-20. With these verses in mind, why do you think John tells us that Judas left Jesus and the other apostles at night?

24. CONNECTION: How could this be? How could an apostle, a trusted friend, betray the Son of God? It seems unthinkable; yet we all experience a deep betrayal. The shock and pain of betrayal can at times be unbearable. Forgiveness and healing are possible only by God’s grace, a willing spirit and the passage of time. If you or someone close to you has experienced betrayal and you feel moved to do so, share a few details. Focus on how you were able to forgive and heal.

Read Isaiah 43:1-4. Record a verse or verses that give you comfort and hope. Realizing that Our Lord also clung to His Father’s promises when He was betrayed by a beloved disciple, begin your prayer.

#### **DAY FIVE**

**Read John 13:31-35**

25a. Right after Judas left the Passover supper in the night to betray Jesus, Jesus made a surprising statement. What did He say (verse 31)?

b. Share your thoughts on what Jesus meant by this statement.

26. Jesus continued to speak of the glory shared between Him and His Father in verse 32. He then turned to his disciples and addressed them as His children. Complete what He prophesied to them (verse 33):

I will be with you

You will look for me, and as I told the Jews

27. At that moment, knowing that He would soon be leaving them, Jesus gave them an important commandment. Record His command (verse 34). (Good memory verse)

28. Read Leviticus 19:18. Comparing this verse with the last sentence of John 13:34, what makes Jesus' commandment to His disciples "new"?

29. According to verse 35, how will everyone know that you are Jesus' disciples?

30. CONNECTION: By word and example Jesus showed how to love as He loved. Jesus wants us to show our love in the way that we treat each other. In Philippians 2:1-5 Paul exhorted the Christians of Philippi to "be of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing." Describe a group such as a family, an organization, a church group, etc., who, together, live this kind of Christ-centered, self-giving love. How has their example inspired your life? Give some details for your small group.

"They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love!" goes a favorite hymn. Write a prayer today thanking our Lord for those Christian fellowships who model how to truly love.

#### **DAY SIX**

**Read John 13:36-38**

31. In yesterday's lesson, Jesus told the apostles that He would only be with them a little while longer. Simon Peter asked Jesus "Where are you going?" How did Jesus answer Peter (verse 36)?

32. Speculate on what you think Jesus meant by telling Peter that he would follow later.

33. Peter was not satisfied with Jesus' answer. He responded to Jesus by saying "Master, why can't I follow you now?" What did Peter then say to Jesus at the end of verse 37?

34. Jesus repeated Peter's statement as a question: "Will you lay down your life for me?" Record Jesus' emphatic prediction to Peter in verse 38.

35a. Read Luke 22:31-34. What additional information do we learn about Jesus' prayers and desires for Peter in anticipation of Peter's denial (Luke 22:32).

b. Why might Jesus have warned Peter about this ahead of time?

36. CONNECTION: Peter was eager to lay down his life for Jesus and sure that his faith was strong enough to withstand anything. Confident of his faith, his loyalty, and his strength of character, perhaps Peter didn't think he would fail Jesus miserably. Has there been a time when, like Peter, you felt confident in forging ahead, only to be met with something that challenged you to the depths of your core? How did you (and God) deal with this? What was the result? Share some details for your small group.

Read Proverbs 30:4 and record a phrase that reflects the true strength in your life. Let this passage lead you into prayer.

Read Lesson 13 John 13:1-38 in the *Meditation and Commentary on the Gospel of John* by Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

**©Copyright 2017. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study**

**[thecornerstonescripturestudy.org](http://thecornerstonescripturestudy.org)**