

John 13:1-30 – The Last Supper

Last words are lasting words. Chapters 13 through 16 contain some of Jesus' last words to his disciples.

Read John 13:1-20.

In verses 1 through 3, what are we told about the lead up to the Last Supper?

What do we know about the custom of foot washing in the days of Jesus? In Luke 7:36-50, Jesus pointed out that his host for a meal, Simon the Pharisee, did not offer him water to wash his feet. Who was normally given the task to wash feet?

Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet? Philippians 2:2-8 is a good cross-reference. 1 John 3:16 says, "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." (ESV)

In John 6:70, Jesus said about Judas, "did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" What did Jesus say about Judas in verses 10-11?

What happens to most (if not all) rulers when they obtain power? How does pride and a hunger for power manifest itself in the church? Jesus did not want his disciples to be like typical worldly leaders. How did Jesus want his leaders to behave?

In verse 18, Jesus quoted Psalm 41:9. Who ate bread with King David and later rebelled against him? Why did Jesus tell his disciples about Judas' betrayal ahead of time?

Read John 13:21-30.

In verse 21, Jesus was troubled. This is the same word that was used in John 11:33 after he saw Mary and those with her weeping. It is also the same word that was used in John 12:27 when Jesus realized that his hour had come. Why is Jesus troubled here?

Can we learn anything from the fact that the disciples seemed to have no idea that one of the twelve disciples would be capable of betraying Jesus? Should the other disciples have known that Judas was going to betray Jesus? Were there any indications that Judas was different from the others?

The disciples wondered who the betrayer was but Peter was determined to find out who it was. How did Peter find out who was going to betray Jesus?

The announcement of the betrayal appears to take place during the typical Passover meal. Based on Exodus 12:8, bitter herbs were part of the traditional Passover meal. Some think that the morsel given to Judas was dipped in the bitter herbs.

From John 12, we already know that Judas kept the money that Jesus and his disciples used to buy food and other supplies. What else did Jesus use this money for, based on verse 29?

In today's culture, we love victims. I think some people view Jesus as a victim. John makes it clear that Jesus was in total control. Jesus was the one who told Judas to leave them and do what he needed to do. What he needed to do was betray Jesus. Jesus was not caught off guard by his arrest, trial and crucifixion. How is God's sovereignty displayed by Judas' betrayal of Jesus?