

A Good Example to Follow

JOHN 13:1-17

OCTOBER 21, 2026

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Please turn to the Gospel of John, Chapter 13 as we continue our study through the Bible on Wednesday nights.
- 2 Last week we saw “God pleaser or man pleaser.” Who will you please? Some of the religious leaders were more concerned about being thrown out of the synagogue rather than being thrown out of heaven.
- 3 This week we will see an example to follow. Are you willing to serve? Are you willing to be treated like a servant?
- 4 In the first 12 chapters, Jesus has been moving up to Jerusalem. Now He begins to enter into that “hour” of trial.
- 5 Try reading chapters 13-17 in one setting. You will get a new perspective.



1 John 13:1 *A Final Farewell*

- This is the last farewell speech of Jesus.
- Everyone of us will have an opportunity to give our farewell speech. Some recorded and thoroughly thought out. Others, clueless that the words they speak will be the last words family members or friends will hear.
- **Acts 20:17** – Paul shares with the believers his last words before departing from them.
- Set your house right because you never know if you will be taken by the LORD.
- This will be the time that Judas is separated, as he betrays Jesus.
- Jesus knew that His hour had come to leave this world and return to His Father.



2 John 13:2 *Time for Fellowship*

- It was time for supper.
- Have you noticed that Jesus was always around eating?
- This brings about an opportunity for fellowship and communion.
- Look at who was behind the betrayal. It was the devil, Satan, that serpent of old.
- The devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus.



3 John 13:3 *The Hope of Glory*

- These words bring comfort.
- Jesus had come from God and would return to God.
- If you are a Christian here tonight, you can rest assured of where you are going.
- This is what is called, “the hope of glory.”
- You and I also have an hour or a time when our departure will come to leave this world. Let's be ready.
- We are told that Jesus loved His disciples during His ministry on earth (3 years), and He loved them to the very end.
- So important to love all the way through. Sometimes it's easy to love in the beginning, but we must learn to love all the way through. Through thick and thin.

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4 John 13:4-5 *He Took Up the Towel*

- Picture this for a moment: You know you are going to die.
- You know you are going to be betrayed. You know who your betrayer is.
- You know that the other 11 will scatter.
- Would you throw in the towel? In boxing, the phrase means to quit, surrender, or admit defeat when a task or goal becomes too hard.
- Jesus did not quit. He took up the towel and began to serve even more.
- Are we doing the same? Are we willing to serve even when we think we should be getting served?
- Don't throw in the towel. Follow the example of Jesus.



5 John 13:6-7 *Peter Doesn't Understand*

- Have you ever been in a situation like this? What would you say?
- I know what some of my kids would ask: "Can I have my feet washed first? Can you massage my feet while you are at it?"
- This is how it is for me so often: "You don't understand NOW what I am doing, but someday you will."



6 John 13:8 *Lord Means Master*

- Don't forget verse 6 when Peter addressed Jesus by saying, "Lord."
- Lord means, "master." And when you have a Master, you do what He says.
- Here Peter is saying, "No." This does not align with the title Peter gave Him earlier.
- Are we guilty of the same?
- Obedience demonstrates submission and ownership.
- We struggle with this because we think of it as a power trip, but Jesus would demonstrate shortly that it was love motivated.



7 John 13:9-11 *Cleansed by the Master*

- Peter asks Jesus to wash not only his feet, but also his hands and head.
- Jesus explains the difference between being clean and needing one's feet washed.
- He also knew that one disciple would betray Him.
- Washing their feet was a form of identifying who they belonged to.
- The Bible says, we are not our own, we've been bought at a price.
- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** – You are not your own; you were bought at a price.
- **1 Peter 1:18-19** – You were redeemed by the precious blood of Christ.



8 John 13:12-17 *An Example to Follow*

- After washing their feet, Jesus reminds His disciples that although He was their Lord and Teacher, He had humbled Himself to serve them.
- A servant is not greater than his master.
- If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.
- True leadership is demonstrated through humility and service, not position, recognition, or authority.
- Following Jesus requires action, not merely knowledge.

FILL IN THE BLANK

- 1 Jesus did not throw in the towel; He took up the towel and began to _____.
- 2 God's blessing comes not simply from knowing what to do, but from _____ what He commands.

CHALLENGE QUESTION

- 3 Jesus served even those He knew would fail or betray Him. Who is God calling you to serve with humility and love, even when it is difficult? What specific action will you take this week?

*Don't just know what Jesus taught.
Follow His example and put His Word into action.*