



## John 13:1-11 (NIV)

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

<sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

<sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

<sup>8</sup> "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

<sup>9</sup> "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

...he loved them to the end.

John 13:1 (NIV)

**Telos:** a temporal expression *and* a qualifying statement  
Full and complete expression of Christ's love

### Foot-Washing

- Practiced in both the Jewish and Greco-Roman World
- Three main functions:
  1. Hygiene
  2. **Hospitality**
  3. Ritual act
- Normally performed by guests themselves or servants

## An Act of Heavenly Hospitality

- Jesus knew his “hour” had arrived
- Jesus acts as servant and host
- Foot washing was an act of hospitality

...Unless I wash you, you have no **share** with me.

John 13:8 (NRSV)

- The saving act was NOT the water, but the relationship
- Fellowship and relationship, not ritual purity

Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”

John 13:9 (NRSV)

- Peter still does not understand

Jesus said to him, “One who has **bathed** does not need to **wash**, except for the feet, but is entirely clean...

John 13:10 (NRSV)

- Bathing is associated here with ritual or baptism
- Foot-washing is not about the water, but the relationship

What do our feet have to do with our relationship with Christ?  
Do the places your feet take you honor or dishonor that relationship?

Jesus gives us the gift of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Jesus asks us to respond by \_\_\_\_\_.

For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master...

John 13:15–16 (NRSV)

Fellowship is mixed with \_\_\_\_\_.

...Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

John 13:21 (NRSV)

Jesus issues a new commandment: *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*

John 13:34 (NRSV)

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,  
if you have \_\_\_\_\_ for one another.

John 13:35 (NRSV)

Discipleship is mixed with \_\_\_\_\_.

...before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.

John 13:38 (NRSV)