

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****JOHN 13****John 13**

John 13 begins to record the closing hours of the Lord Jesus during the Passover event, the conversations, and actions before and after the supper, His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, His betrayal, trial, appearances before earthly potentates, His crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and events after the resurrection. Some of the teachings of Jesus and the events surrounding the Passover in detail are only recorded by John, the most beloved and trusted of the disciples. John was also the youngest.

John 13 opens with a statement that should touch every heart of those who are followers of the Lord Jesus. **"Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."** (John 13:1) While the phrase could indeed mean to the end, and that is true, perhaps the best translation, *"to the utmost and completely,"* as that is what He did. No one ever lived like the Lord Jesus, and no one ever loved like He did. Jesus loved the disciples, knowing from the beginning that they would scatter from Him and leave Him. He loves each of us with that same kind of love.

One scene is especially touching in this sacred thread, the visual we are allowed to enter into with the disciples of Jesus knowing He was going to be betrayed by one of His own followers, Judas, the man from Kerioth, filled with Satan himself, to do his bidding. The selfless act of service to His disciples once He knew the betrayer was no longer numbered among them and that **"all things were given into His hand."** The Lord had and could take anything on earth, and **He took a towel**, the garment of a servant, and

began to wash the disciple's feet. Notice the conversation between the Lord and the leader of the disciples. **"Lord, are you washing my feet? Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him; therefore, He said, "You are not all clean."** (vv.6-11)

Let's briefly examine this conversation for clarity and understanding. When Jesus said, **"he that is bathed needs only to wash his feet..."** (v.10). The Greek word that is used for **bathe** is *louō* – *properly, to wash (cleanse), especially the entire person (bathing the whole body)*. Jesus was telling Peter that he did not need to take a bath and wash his entire body again. He had no doubt already done that in preparation for the great Passover meal in Jerusalem. The Lord said rather that Peter **"needs only to wash his feet..."** (v.10). This phrase has a different meaning and connotation. The word is the Greek word *nipto*- *To cleanse (especially the hands or the feet or the face); ceremonially, to perform ablution -- wash*. Jesus simply said to Simon Peter, paraphrasing in our common day English, *Peter, you don't need to be cleansed. That comes through me and your relationship with me. Rather you have gotten defiled and your hands and feet dirty since you touch and handle things that are not clean, you simply need to cleanse the parts of your body that have gotten dirty through the living of your life and doing what you do throughout the day.*

**Prayer and Action Steps**

*This interchange between the Lord Jesus and Peter is a teaching moment for us. When we become a follower of Jesus, His blood cleanses us from all sin, and we are clean forever in our standing and relationship with Him. But in the living of our lives, we sin, and we "dirty" our hands and feet. I John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Followers of Jesus do not need to be saved each time we sin; rather, we need cleansing from the defilement of sin so fellowship is restored. The relationship never changes. Lord, help me to look to You for cleansing moment by moment in my walk with You. Amen*