

**Men's Sunday Night Live**  
**Lesson 13 - John 13:1-38**  
**Finding Identity and Purpose**  
**Love & Betrayal**

Jesus' foot-washing was an example of humility and service. In Middle Eastern countries, it was the slaves who washed the feet of guests. Here in chapter 13, Christ took the place of a slave. He makes this clear to His disciples in vs.13-16. If their Lord and Teacher has washed their feet, then they should wash one another's feet and serve each other in humility. This must have been a striking rebuke to the Twelve, for just that evening they had been debating who was to be the greatest. To many Christians today are fighting for recognition and position and need to recall this lesson in humility. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

When the Jewish priests were ordained, they were washed all over, which pictures our once and for all cleansing. God also provided the laver for them to use in the daily washing of their hands and feet. Today, Jesus is cleansing His church through the water of the Word. As we daily read the Word allowing the Spirit to search our hearts, and then confess our sins, we keep our feet clean and walk in the light.

In vs. 21, Jesus openly told the disciples that one of them would betray Him. Actually, this statement was a final warning to Judas. Jesus had washed his feet, quoted the Word to him, and now openly warned him, giving Judas every opportunity to change his mind. Like the Holy Spirit, Satan works in and through human bodies and wills that are surrendered to him.

It is a dangerous thing to be a person like Judas. In Mark 14:21 Jesus said, "*It would of been good for that man if he had never been born!*" Judas pretended to be a Christian. He played with sin and put off salvation. Any person who does these things may end up wishing he or she had never been born. There are some mysteries surrounding Judas, but one thing is clear: Judas made a deliberate choice when he betrayed Jesus. In John 6:66-71, Jesus actually warned Judas and called him "*a devil.*"

After Judas left the room, Jesus warned Peter about his own approaching testing and failures. Peter was anxious to discover another's sin, now he had to face his own sin. "*Judge not, that you be not judged.*" Peter's boast showed his lack of understanding of his own heart. Self-confidence is a dangerous line to cross for the believer.



7. What does the disciples being “*perplexed*” (13:22) when Jesus said, “*One of you will betray Me*” tell us about Judas Iscariot?

8. When did Judas begin to betray Jesus? Are there betrayers of Jesus in the church today? Explain.

9. Knowing what Judas and Peter are about to do, Jesus gives “*a new commandment.*” Compare John 13:34 to Leviticus 19:18. What is new about this commandment? (See 13:34)

10. Why is the command we see in 13:35, so crucial for Christians to keep? Why do you think actively loving other Christians is such an effective way to evangelize non-Christians?

11. What are some examples of this Christian love for one another?

12. Peter’s heart was right but his flesh was weak. What does Jesus mean by, “*The rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.*”? (See 13:37-38)

## **A Model of Servant-Leadership**

When Jesus washed His disciple's feet, He demonstrated a fundamental principle that He regularly stressed to His followers. To lead others, one must serve others. This is true in public life and the business world as well in the church. No number of corporate memos or "that a boy" speeches encouraging workers to commit themselves to an organization or its clients will have as powerful an impact as a person of authority modeling consistently the attitude of a godly servant. Placing others needs before his own, and not expecting any favors or recognition from the people one serves, truly reflects the heart of a godly servant-leader.