

**Maundy Thursday**  
**A Night To Remember**  
**John 13:4-8, 12-15, 34-35; Mark 10:43b-45; Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:49-51.**

“If you knew you had only one night left on this planet, what would you say to your friends and family? What would you want them to know and/or remember?”

This is where Jesus finds himself on the evening when He celebrates His last supper. The difference between us and Jesus is that He knew exactly what he wanted to say: to his friends; to a traitor; to those who would come to arrest him; to you and me.

**Jesus Would Demonstrate How to Live Humbly**

John 13:4-5 Washing someone’s feet may be strange to us modern day readers, but in first century Israel, this was not unusual at all. To be hospitable in this culture, water and a towel were provided for guests to clean their feet.

What WAS unusual was that the washing, traditionally done by a servant (in many cases, an enslaved person), or someone of lower status, was now being done by a participant to the meal, a Rabbi no less. By washing the feet of the disciples, Jesus was breaking expected norms, taking on the clothing of a servant, and leaving an unforgettable lesson for his disciples: Live humbly. Serve others. Mark 10:43b-45

**Jesus Would Instruct How to Serve Sacrificially**

John 13:6-8 Jesus knew that Peter would struggle with this act of servanthood. He tells Jesus, “NO!”

Jesus’ response seems to bring Peter to his senses, and he relents. John 13:12-15

Jesus, Rabbi and Son of God, has washed their feet, and then he takes a moment to make sure they have caught the lesson.

“Do you understand?” he asks. The teacher has humbled himself and served you. Now...YOU DO THE SAME!

Jesus is fully aware of what is ahead. He is preparing these disciples for the tough days to come and for the leadership they will need to assume in the days after he is no longer with them.

Therefore, Jesus spent precious moments on this last evening visually instructing his disciples how to serve sacrificially.

**Jesus Would Command to Love Others as I Have Loved You**

Do you recall the question, “If you knew you had only one night left on this planet, what would you say to your friends and family?”

This is where Jesus found Himself when he uttered these words to his disciples that evening. John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another.” That might sound easy enough on the surface, but Jesus doesn’t stop there. He says, “Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another.” How this must have sounded to the ears of these twelve. One a traitor. One a Zealot. One a tax collector. A few fishermen. Some others thrown in for good measure. How would they get along without their teacher, Jesus? They were a motley crew. They knew that Jesus was the glue that held them together.

How well **do we** get along with those in the church who are different than us?

Jesus knew they would need help, so he offers help in the form of a command. A new command: “Love one another.” Simple, yet so complex. And **how** are they to love one another? “Simple,” he says. “Love as I have loved you.” Love--as **I** loved **you**. Could they do it? Eventually, with a few bumps in the road.

Love one another. Can **we** do it? It sounds simple enough, but what about “them?” Do I have to love “them?” The answer, as we look at the life of Jesus, is “yes.” Even “them.” And why do this? Jesus provides the answer. “By this, **everyone** will know that you are my disciples.” Jesus offered a command for the disciples and us to follow (we, too, are to be his disciples).

### **Jesus Would Offer a Timeless Reminder of What Was To Come**

Matthew 26:26-29 Christ’s words of instruction when taking communion or the Lord’s Supper.

### **Finally...In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus Would Live What He Taught**

Luke 22:49-51

Jesus embodied the very character traits that he encouraged his followers to nurture. Jesus’ last act before he was taken away under arrest (and eventually to the cross) was to exemplify each of the traits we’ve looked at today – living humbly, serving sacrificially, and loving others, even with those seeking to do Him harm. (He healed an ear.)

May we, as those who bear the name “Christian,” follow his example. In the good times. In the difficult times. And always in between. May **we** live humbly, serve sacrificially, love others, and do all of these things in remembrance of Him!