JOHN 13

Loved to the End

the towel and the basin, the morsel and the night, and a commandment that is always new

> *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."*
> JOHN 13:34

A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where we are in John

1. John 13 is a hinge. Chapters 1–12 are often called the Book of Signs: seven public miracles, crowds, debates in the temple, and a closing verdict — “though He had performed so many signs before them,”…

2. The word that opens the chapter is “hour.”

3. The setting is a supper “before the Feast of the Passover” (v1), in a room in Jerusalem.

Loved to the End

The Lord with all things in His hands takes a towel — and Peter learns he must be washed

JOHN 13:1

Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

DAVID GUZIK

A victor, not a victim; a part with Jesus begins with receiving.

R.C. SPROUL

A Gentile slave's task; glory laid aside, never deity; one touch cleanses.

C.H. SPURGEON

Still our servant; once-for-all blood, daily washing; rising by going down.

MATTHEW HENRY

A miracle of humility; true assurance makes a man very humble.

εἰς τέλος ἠγάπησεν αὐτούς

EIS TELOS ĒGAPĒSEN AUTOUS · "HE LOVED THEM TO THE END"

Telos is the end, the goal, the completion of a thing.

Down to the feet, back to the table



Read down the left and up the right: the One who knew all things were in His hands went all the way down to His disciples’ feet, then rose, reclined again, and told them to do the same.

An Example to Follow

“Do you know what I have done to you?” — the Teacher and Lord as servant, and the one who lifts his heel

JOHN 13:14

“If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.

DAVID GUZIK

Wash one another’s feet; Jesus was never surprised by Judas.

R.C. SPROUL

An example of humility, not a sacrament; Psalm 41; “I am” is the divine name.

C.H. SPURGEON

Christ the host at the door; more humbling to be washed; covet humble work.

MATTHEW HENRY

Wash a brother’s feet in tears; Christ’s word distinguishes.

ὑπόδειγμα
HYPODEIGMA · “EXAMPLE”

A pattern shown so that it can be copied — the sketch the apprentice works from.

The Morsel and the Night

"One of you will betray Me" — the last offer of love, and the door closing behind Judas

JOHN 13:21

When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me."

DAVID GUZIK

Troubled for Judas' sake; the best Teacher, and still lost.

R.C. SPROUL

Each man feared it was he; Judas likely in the seat of honor.

C.H. SPURGEON

No one suspected Judas; a fair name and a false heart.

MATTHEW HENRY

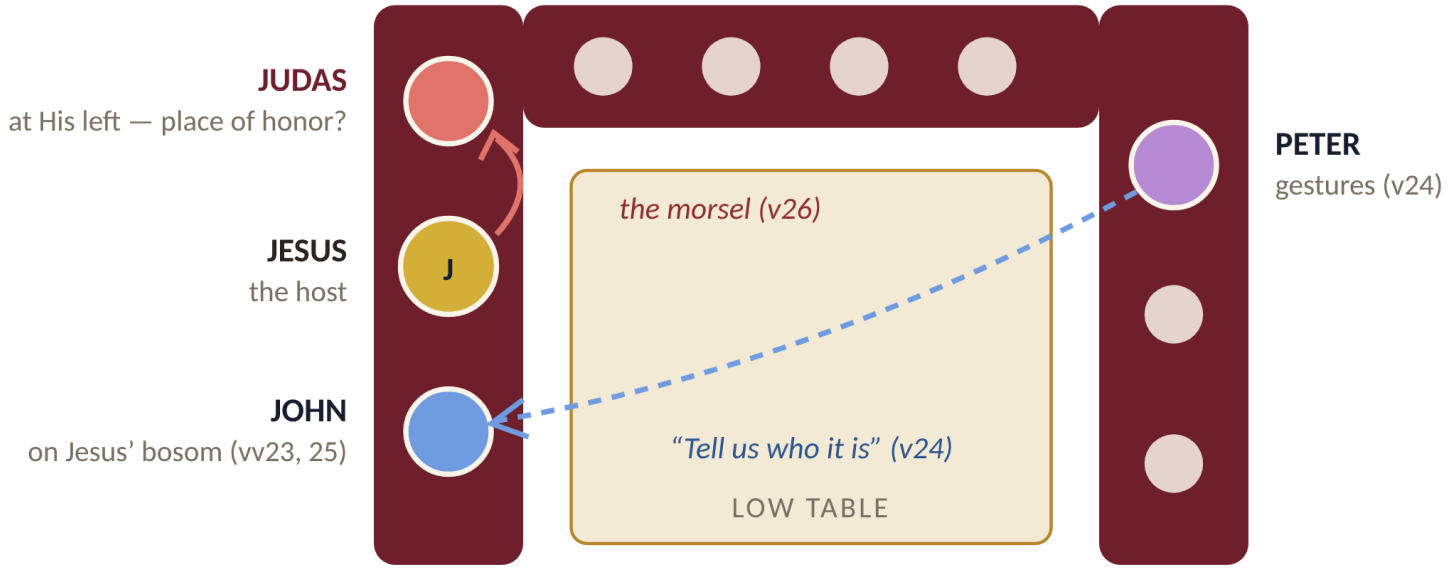
Christ gives sops to traitors; Judas expelled himself.

ψωμίον
PSŌMION · "MORSEL"

A small piece of bread, a mouthful.

Who reclined where

AROUND THE LOW TABLE · JOHN 13:23–30



The text fixes only John's place: reclining in front of Jesus, he could lean back on His chest (vv23, 25). Judas at Jesus' left is a reconstruction (Sproul; Morris, cited by Guzik) — it explains how the morsel could pass quietly, and why no one at the table understood (v28).

A schematic of the reclining supper: John's place is in the text; Judas's place beside Jesus is a common reconstruction that makes sense of the quiet handing of the morsel.

Glory, Love and a Boast

“Now is the Son of Man glorified” — a new commandment for the little children, and a warning for Peter

JOHN 13:31

Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him;

DAVID GUZIK

Five glories in two verses; the cross is His glory; Peter is not Judas.

R.C. SPROUL

Nothing new but the context; love that stands when push comes to shove.

C.H. SPURGEON

The eleventh commandment; love that welds believers together.

MATTHEW HENRY

So strangely new as to be always so; the weakness of saints.

ἐντολὴν καινήν

ENTOLĒN KAINĒN · “A NEW COMMANDMENT”

Greek has two words for “new.”

Two failures, two endings

JOHN 13	JUDAS ISCARIOT	SIMON PETER
WARNED	**"one of you will betray Me"** (v21)	**"you deny Me three times"** (v38)
HIS HEART	**the devil put it in his heart;** Satan entered (vv2, 27)	**"I will lay down my life** for You" (v37)
WHAT HE DID	**took the morsel and** went out immediately (v30)	**denied Him three times** (18:17, 25, 27)
JESUS' WORD	**"What you do,** do quickly" (v27)	**"I have prayed for you"** (Luke 22:32)
WHERE IT LED	**"and it was night"** (v30)	**turned again and restored —** "Tend My sheep" (21:17)

Sproul: "It is not just Judas, but Simon as well." Both fell that night; only one came back.

Read across each row: Judas and Peter were both warned and both fell, but one went out into the night and the other was prayed for and restored.

What to carry from this chapter

1

He knew everything — and took a towel.

Verse 3 says Jesus knew the Father had given all things into His hands; verse 4 says He got up and girded Himself with a towel.

2

Bathed once, washed daily.

Verse 10 uses louō for the whole bath and niptō for the feet.

3

Pride can look like humility.

Peter's "Never shall You wash my feet!"

4

Blessed is in the doing.

"If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them" (v17).

More to carry

5

Jesus washed the feet of the man who would betray Him.

Judas was in the room for verses 1–17 (vv11, 18).

6

Closeness to Jesus is not the same as faith in Jesus.

Judas sat near Him, kept the purse, and took the honored morsel.

7

“And it was night.”

John’s four words (v30) are more than a time stamp.

8

The cross is the glory.

Doxazō five times in verses 31–32, beginning the moment Judas leaves.

Talk it through

1. Jesus knew all things were in His hands — and that freed Him to kneel (vv3–4). Where does my insecurity keep me from serving?

2. Like Peter, where do I refuse to let Jesus — or a brother — do something for me?

3. Whose feet is Jesus asking me to wash this week — and whose is the hardest to wash?

4. Judas was close to Jesus for three years and was still lost. What is the difference between being near Jesus and belonging to Him?

5. “By this all men will know …” If someone watched our group for a month, what would they conclude about our love?

CLOSING

John 13 begins with a love that goes to the end and ends with a man who will fail before morning. Between them the Lord of all takes a towel, washes the feet of a betrayer and a denier, and tells the rest of us to do the same. The night Judas walked into is not the end of the story; the love that washed Peter's feet also brought him back.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the John study page.