



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #281
Thursday... Day of Instruction and Arrest:
The Last Supper

Jesus Explains and Applies His Foot Washing Lesson
JN 13.12-20

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12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place.

“Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and it is well that you do so, for so I am.

14 “Now that I, myself, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should continue to wash one another’s feet. 15 I have given you an example, that you should continually do as I have done for you.

16 “Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Since you know these things, you will be truly blessed if you keep on doing them.

18 “I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘HE WHO SHARED MY BREAD HAS TURNED AGAINST ME.’ (Ps. 41.9)

19 “I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I AM who I am. 20 Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.”

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	An Upper Room in Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus’ Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	D. Thursday: Day of Instruction and Arrest
	The Last Supper
Title	Jesus Explains and Applies His Foot Washing Lesson

COMMENT:

After washing his disciple's feet, Jesus took a few minutes to explain and apply the lessons we should learn from his example. These are some of the most important words Jesus spoke on the topic of discipleship. We will only touch upon on the most important concept here.

Jesus began by asking a rhetorical question: **"Do you understand what I have done for you?"** They did not. It would take a lifetime of being taught more about Jesus by the Holy Spirit for them to do that. However, Jesus used the Greek perfect tense when he said **"done for you."** They understood that much. Unfortunately, it is hard for those of us who communicate in English to comprehend what Jesus intended by using this Greek tense.

The Greek perfect is a powerful concept. It describes an action that has occurred in the past, but the results of the action remain. If a person says, "I saved \$100 when I was ten years old" in Greek, it means that the \$100 is STILL in a saved state, no matter how many years have passed since the age of 10. The results remain. This tense is only used for actions that create a result that is still in effect—unchanged at the time a speaker/writer talks about the past action. Past action + present, ongoing, current results. This is the Greek present tense.

The results of what Jesus had done for the disciples when he washed their feet remained in effect. On a physical level, their feet were still clean. But Jesus was talking about the power of his entire life-example, not just the foot washing. Therefore Jesus next said: **"I have given you an example, so that you should continually do as I have done for you."** Because the power of Jesus' example is permanent, our conformity to it should also be continual, or permanent. **"You should continually do..."**

This principle applies to every aspect of Jesus' example for us found in the Scriptures.

Have you ever wondered why so much of the Bible is in narrative genre? Why the gospels are written as stories containing context, word, and deed, rather than mere propositional summary statements of truth, such as "Jesus is God. God is a Trinity. The Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God."

These truths are communicated in Scripture in narrative format. This is because the example of Jesus is every bit as important and authoritative for our obedience as his imperatival statements. Jesus CHOSE to give us the example of his life, so that we would learn to DO just as he has first done to and for us.

A disciple is a follower of the myriad examples of Jesus. This is why reading about Jesus, and seeing his example every day is so important. Otherwise, we will be shaped by the imperfect, and often destructive examples of the people around us more than by Jesus himself. HE is the pattern we must emulate in all things.

One of the examples Jesus gave us in the foot washing scene and what immediately followed it is the way he related to Judas Iscariot, his betrayer. Jesus used the foot washing to make a final appeal to Judas. He looked straight into his eyes, and **"loved his own to the very end,"** including Judas, by giving him another opportunity to repent. We will see over the next readings how Jesus reached out to Judas.

One of the most important and difficult aspects of our Lord's example is the way he loved, forgave, and extended grace to his enemies. The way he related to Jesus in the last supper is a powerful portion of this example. He intended us to do the same. Really.

APPLICATION:

Jesus said: **"Since you know these things, you will be truly blessed if you keep on doing them."** The apostles knew a great deal about the example of Jesus. They did not really understand it yet—they needed the Holy Spirit to do that... but they had a tremendous library of information about what Jesus had said and done—his example. Yet, the information alone did them no good—the blessing would come later—in obedience.

The most important examples of Jesus' life have been recorded for us in the gospels. We can experience the same blessing as the apostles themselves by practicing what Jesus did for us in our own relationships with him, self, and others. There is no limit upon the blessing of obeying Jesus, other than our own willingness to do so.

What example of Jesus do you see in this passage that you can imitate?

When did you more recently "wash" some one else's feet?

What is the most recent example you have seen in Jesus that you have yet to emulate? When will you begin?