

**Lesson 13**  
**John 13:1-35**  
**THE SOVEREIGN SERVANT**

**Memory verse:** “....Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.” (John 13:1 NIV)

John 13—17 is our Lord's “farewell message” to His beloved disciples, climaxing with His intercessory prayer for them and for us. Other farewell addresses in Scripture were delivered by Moses (Deut. 31—33), Joshua (Josh. 23—24), and Paul (Acts 20). However, Jesus added a significant “action section” to His message when He washed His disciples' feet. It was an object lesson they would never forget.

The Synoptics integrate Jesus' ministry to the masses and His training of the Twelve, but John separated these two aspects of His ministry. There is obviously some overlapping in the fourth Gospel, but the present section contains ministry that Jesus directed almost exclusively to the Twelve. The Synoptics contain more of Jesus' teaching of the Twelve during His public ministry, whereas John gave us more of His teaching in the upper room. This instruction was specifically to prepare the Twelve for leadership in the church. Jesus gave it after Israel's official and final rejection of Him resulted in the postponement of the messianic kingdom.

There are eighty-nine chapters in the four Gospels. Four of these chapters cover the first thirty years of the life of Jesus and eighty-five chapters the last three years of His life. Of these eighty-five chapters, twenty-seven deal with the last eight days of His life. So about one-third of the gospel records deal with the last few days and place the emphasis on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus had entered Jerusalem on Sunday, and on Monday had cleansed the temple. Tuesday was a day of conflict as the religious leaders sought to trip Him up and get evidence to arrest Him. These events are recorded in Matthew 21—25. Wednesday was probably a day of rest, but on Thursday He met in the Upper Room with His disciples in order to observe Passover.

John recorded more of what Jesus said and did in the upper room than any of the other Gospel evangelists. Much of this was a discourse on the disciples' future. Jesus prefaced this instruction with other lessons for them. In the first major section of this Gospel, Jesus customarily performed a miracle and then explained its significance. In this section He did the reverse. He explained the significance of His death, and then went to the cross, and arose from the dead.

John's omission of the institution of the Lord's Supper has disturbed some readers of the fourth Gospel, especially those who believe that the sacraments have some part in salvation. Obviously John did not record many other things that his fellow evangelists chose to include. Each evangelist chose his material in view of his distinctive purpose.

In the passage we are about to study, we see our Lord in relationship to His heavenly Father, to Simon Peter, to all of the disciples and to Judas. In each of these sections of John's gospel, you will discover a special message, a spiritual truth to help you in your own Christian life.

Scripture Reading: John 13:1-35

To learn in this lesson: 1) Humility 2) Holiness and Happiness 3) Hypocrisy

**Discussion Questions:**

1) Why is it that “*what our Lord knew*” (verses 1 to 3) and “*what our Lord did*” (verses 4 to 5) is reflective of His relationship with His Father?

2) How can we apply the lessons of holiness and happiness taught by Jesus to the disciples in verses 6 to 17 in our Christian walk today?

3). Explain why Jesus did not expose the hypocrisy of Judas and also the important instructions given to His disciples after Judas' departure from the scene (vs 18 to 35)?