

John #7: Love One Another John 13:1-17

Objectives: We want people to know that Jesus loves us by spiritually making us clean and by serving us. We want to respond by accepting his cleansing and by serving/loving one another.

Launch

Share what stood out to you from your Thirsty devotion the past week. Explain the concept to new people. It is not too late for them to join. You can do it in large or small groups.

The Christian life was not meant to be lived alone. Last week we looked at the gift of the Holy Spirit. This week we are going to look at his gift of Christian community. To do so we are going to look at a story that takes place just hours before he is arrested. By looking at the parallel passage in Luke 22:24 we learn that the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest when Jesus started teaching the lesson found in our passage.

Explore

Read John 13:1-11

- **What does 13:1 tell us about Jesus and His plan for the next few hours?** *(He knew he was going to die on the cross so He wanted to show His love to the disciples and also prepare them for life without Him. Everything from this point forward in John looks forward to the cross.)*
- **In verses 2 and 3 John gives us some background info. What did Jesus know about Himself in these verses?** *(Jesus knew He was God; He had ultimate power; He was heading back to God; he also knew he would be betrayed by a friend and die on the cross)*
- Jesus knew He was God and had power over everything and He also knew that He was going to be brutally beaten and killed. **What would you expect Jesus to do?**
- **What does He do instead? Why is this so shocking?** *(Foot washing was the worst “dirty job” at the time. It was the role of the lowest slave. It is also shocking that his betrayer was at the table, as well as the one who would deny Him.)*
- **Knowing the awful nature of this job, Peter’s response makes sense. What was Jesus talking about in verses 7&8?** *(The foot washing was a physical metaphor for the spiritual cleansing that each of us need. The foot washing looks forward to Jesus “washing our feet” by dying on the cross for our sins).*
- **Jesus said “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” Does He still need to “wash us today”? If so, how does He do it? How do we allow Him to wash us?** *(We accept his death on the cross as our payment for our sins. This is the*

good news that we can not wash ourselves, but that we need to allow Jesus to “wash us” by accepting His death for us!).

- **What keeps people from allowing Jesus to wash them today?** *(Pride, some don’t know they need to be washed, some don’t know how to accept His washing them, some do not think that He would want to wash them etc... You should offer to talk to everyone about this for their own life.)*

Most other religions say “clean up your act”. This passage makes it clear that Christianity is not about cleaning up your act, it is about God coming to earth to make us clean. Jesus put away the clothes of glory, and put on human nature, in order to wash our feet by dying on the cross in our place. Jesus did this so that we would know the full extent of his love. Take a moment to reflect on the depth of the love of God for you. Give thanks together.

Jesus was making a point about Himself in verses 2-11, but in verses 12-17 he has a lesson for the disciples.

Read John 13:12-17.

- **What is Jesus teaching them?** *(They are to “wash one others feet”; a true leader will be a servant like Jesus was a servant)*
- **What is the promise they receive if they obey?** *(blessing)*
- **How did the disciples practically live this command out?** *(We never again hear of them arguing who was the greatest. Instead, we see them serve one another. They even would sell their possessions for those who had need. We also see (in Acts) that they would encourage and exhort one another to follow Christ.)*
- **Jesus summarized His teaching in John 13:34 (READ IT). How does Jesus love us?** *(It was an act of His will, he chose to love us, it was done with a purpose in mind to draw us closer to God, He laid down His rights and His life)*

Apply (you need at least 15 minutes!)

- **As a Life Group, how can we practically love one another like this?**
- **Why is it so hard to do this for others?**
- **In v. 35, Jesus said everyone would know we are his disciples if we love one another. How can us loving one another point other people to Jesus?**

This is one of the most talked about yet least applied passages of scripture.

- **What will keep you from living this out?**
- **Make plans as a group to live this out practically.**
- **Write down one application for you personally.**