



April 13, 2025
Jesus at the Festivals
THE THIRD PASSEOVER (PART 5)
John 13:21-35



1. Opening Discussion: (you will probably want to use only one of these openers)

- a. Have you ever been betrayed by someone you thought was your friend and you could trust? To the extent you are comfortable doing so, describe the experience. How did you feel after the betrayal? What was your relationship with the individual going forward?
- b. This week, Washington Capitals team captain Alex Ovechkin set a new NHL goal-scoring record. What other sports figure do you remember who set a significant record (or, if sports are not your thing, a record in some other area)? Why do we get so excited when someone sets a new record in his/her area of expertise? What does it take for a person to get to this level in their field?

2. Prayer:

- a. Adoration – Pray Psalm 8 or another passage of Scripture that enables you to focus on praising God for who He is in all His majesty and glory, the only One worthy of praise.
- b. Confession – Spend time in silence, allowing the Holy Spirit to bring to mind any sins you need to confess. Keep a paper and pencil handy in case He reminds you of one that requires you to ask forgiveness of someone. Close by reading 1 John 1:9
- c. Thanksgiving – In the spirit of Ephesians 5:20, thank God for answered prayers, His blessings and gifts, and the opportunities He provides to serve. Make a point to thank Him for at least one thing that you've never given thanks for before.
- d. Supplications – Pray for the needs of others, both physical and spiritual; for the activities of His Church, both locally and around the world; for those who serve Him, including missionaries, pastors, and volunteers; for your personal needs; and for at least some of the items on LRBC's weekly *Praises & Prayer Requests*. Close by reading 1 John 5:14-15.

3. Sermon Key Points for John 13:21-35

- a. We Can Reject Jesus, Leading to Betrayal and the Cross
 - i. Jesus always knew Judas would betray Him
 - ii. All who hear about Jesus can choose to do the same
- b. We've Each Chosen That Path in Our Life, Sending Jesus to the Cross
 - i. Let's get brutally honest with ourselves...
 - ii. Our sin sent Jesus to the cross
- c. We Can Believe in Jesus, Leading to Redemption and Love
 - i. God was glorified at the cross
 - ii. Redemption in Christ produces deep love for fellow Christians

4. Bible Study:

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after the sermon, make time to consider:
- i. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
 - iii. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
 - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. **Monday:**
- i. This week’s focal passage is one of the most dramatic and emotionally charged in John’s Gospel. Review the first 20 verses of chapter 13 to remind yourself of the setting and then read John 13:21-35.
 1. What are the major themes in this passage?
 2. Imagine the passage being portrayed in a movie or play. What do you think the background music would be like for verses 21-30? How would you expect the music to change when you get to verses 31 and then 34?
 3. Which verse is most impactful on your life?
 - ii. Verse 21 starts with the word “After,” almost insisting that it be read with the previous verses. Read verses 18-21.
 1. What do you understand the expression “troubled in spirit” to mean?
 2. What are some of the reasons that might explain why Jesus was “troubled in spirit”?
 3. Compare these verses with the two other times we are told Jesus was “troubled”: John 11:33 and 12:27. While none of us will ever have these same experiences, how do these verses help us understand and relate to Jesus more fully (see Hebrews 4:15)?
- c. **Tuesday:**
- i. Start today’s study by reading John 13:21-26 and the parallel passages: Matthew 26:20-25, Mark 14:18-20, and Luke 22:21-23.
 1. What additional information is provided by each account?
 2. How did the atmosphere change after Jesus told the disciples that one of them would betray Him? (see Matthew 26:22 and Mark 14:19)? Is this the response you would have expected from His disciples? Why do you think there was not a more vigorous effort to identify the “traitor” (Hint: see Matthew 26:22)?
 - ii. Verse 21 introduces “the disciple whom Jesus loved” for the first time. Since Jesus clearly loved all of His disciples (John 13:1 and 17:6-19) and the entire world (John 3:16), how would you explain the use of this title?

- iii. Why do you think Peter had “the disciple Jesus loved” ask Jesus who the betrayer was rather than just asking himself? How might the fact that this was the Passover meal have influenced Peter?
- iv. How did Jesus answer the question asked by “the disciple Jesus loved”?
 - 1. Why do you think He responded in this manner rather than just naming Judas?
 - 2. Offering guests bread was an act of love and friendship (see Ruth 2:14). Although it was not obvious to the disciples during the meal, do you think they may have understood it as a sign of Jesus’ love for Judas to the very end when they looked back on the event after the resurrection?

d. Wednesday:

- i. Read John 13:27-30 and Matthew 26:23-25.
 - 1. Combining the information in both accounts, what facts should have been obvious to Judas?
 - 2. Who was responsible for Judas’ decisions? Does it seem that Jesus gave Judas plenty of warning of the consequences of his actions (Matthew 26:24) and an opportunity to change his mind (repent)?
 - 3. Why must we never try to lay the blame for our sins on Satan? How do Romans 3:9-18 & 23 show us this?
- ii. What two things happened after Judas had taken the morsel (bread)?
 - 1. While the disciples clearly understood that Jesus was talking to Judas in verse 27, who else might Jesus have been addressing with the command to “do quickly”?
 - 2. Why is it clear that even at this late stage, Judas’ true character is not apparent to most (perhaps all) of the disciples? How does this demonstrate the truth Jesus taught in the Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43)?

e. Thursday:

- i. Read the entire focal passage today: John 13:21-35.
- ii. Verse 30 ends with a four-word sentence, which is important in the overall theme of John’s Gospel: light and darkness.
 - 1. Read these verses: John 1:4-5, 1:7-9, 3:19-21, 8:12, 9:5, 11:9-10, 12:35-36 and 12:46. How are light and darkness contrasted?
 - 2. When John tells us it was night when Judas went out, what is he saying symbolically?
 - 3. Another man, Nicodemus, came to Jesus in the night but seems to have moved into the light. Read his story in John 3:1-21. What should this passage motivate us Christians to do?

- iii. How and why does Judas' departure change the mood/atmosphere of the evening? What lesson might we learn from this about the need/importance of getting apart with other true believers to worship our Lord?

f. **Friday:**

- i. Read and meditate on John 13:31-33.
- ii. We often think and talk about Jesus' crucifixion as being for us, and we certainly receive uncountable blessings from the grace provided because of it, but what does Jesus say is the real goal?
- iii. Read these passages from John: 5:41-44, 8:54-55, 11:4; 12:28; 14:12-14, and 17:1-5.
 - 1. What do these verses tell us about Jesus' primary objective while on earth?
 - 2. How would our lives and worship be changed if we followed Christ's example and were always concerned about glorifying God first and only after that about our own wants and needs?
 - 3. How should Jesus' teaching in John 14:12-14 affect the nature of our prayers?
- iv. How does the fact that Jesus spoke these words just before He knew He would go through the most terrible experience any human has ever suffered suggest about their importance to Jesus? To us?
 - 1. Immediately after verses 31-32, where does Jesus shift His focus?
 - 2. How do verses 31-33 demonstrate Jesus' fulfillment of the two Great Commandments (Matthew 22:37-38)?

g. **Saturday:**

- i. Read John 13:20-35 one more time today, meditating on the meaning of each portion in your life. Spend extra time meditating on verses 34-35.
- ii. Why could Jesus say this was a new command when the Jews had been taught it since the time of Moses (see John 15:12, Ephesians 5:2, and 1 John 4:10-11)?
- iii. Close the week by reading 1 John 2:3-11, remembering as you read how Jesus loved even Judas.

5. **Application:**

- a. One of the most amazing aspects of John 13 is what it shows us about Jesus' relationship with Judas. Even though Jesus knew Judas would betray Him so that the Scriptures would be fulfilled (John 17:12b), He continued to love Judas and seemed to give him many opportunities to change his mind (repent). The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) gives us the mission of providing that same opportunity to all who don't know Him. Like Judas, many may refuse – but all deserve to hear of God's great gift of Grace. Are we doing all we should?
- b. Jesus' "new command" to love one another is foundational to Christianity and so often mentioned that perhaps we have become jaded when we hear it. What does it really mean to you to "love one another"? Is it just a nice bumper sticker phrase we throw out to sound good? Or can we really read 1 John 4 without being convicted that we must change?