

**Messages for Jesus' Followers
(Upper Room Discourse)
The Master and His Servants
John 13**

After Jesus completed final public comments concerning His rejection & death, He turned from public ministry to give attention to His disciples.

INSTRUCTION BY THE SON OF GOD 13-16

In upper room night before His death, He instructs them in preparation for ministry after His departure in a message for His followers, that has become known as the Upper Room Discourse.

He begins that message with an object lesson:

WASHING OF THE DISCIPLES' FEET 13:1-17

Jesus washes disciples' feet giving them example of how they should serve one another.

He uses it to instruct them concerning the need to be cleansed on a day-to-day basis.

Those who follow Jesus, & imitate Him lay aside their rights & serve one another.

Jesus shows His love for His followers

1-11

His demonstration of love 1-5 *"It was just*

before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world & go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. ²The evening meal was being served, & the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, & that he had come from God & was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, & wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin & began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him."

His dialogue with Peter 6-11 *"He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" [sg.] ⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." ⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands & my head as well!" ¹⁰Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. [pl.] & you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was going to betray him, & that was why he said not every one was clean."*

Jesus teaches His followers to imitate His example by loving his followers

12-17 *"When he'd finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes & returned to his place. "**Do you understand what I've done for you?**" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' & 'Lord,' & rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord & Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also should wash one another's feet.** ¹⁵I've set you an example that you should do as I've done for you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, **you'll be blessed if you do them.**"*

Jesus modeled what love for 1 another should look like.

We'll be blessed if we imitate what He's modeled!

It's not people who KNOW it who're blessed; it's people who DO it!

Not everyone who followed Jesus around was a committed follower of Jesus 18-19 *"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen."*

You won't all experience this blessing.

You won't all DO as I have done.

You won't all show love like that.

In fact, one of you is going to betray me!

But this is to fulfill the Scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.'

¹⁹*"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He."*

Natural response to betrayal would have been doubt & discouragement.

Warning in advance confirms it's in the plan.

Jesus' knowledge affirms His claim: *"I am He"*

People who welcome Jesus' followers, welcome Him 20

Our concern for one another shows our concern for Him, & for the Father.
"I tell you the truth, whoever accepts [welcomes] anyone I send accepts me; & whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

Welcome the Father

=> welcome the Son

=> welcome whomever I send

Love drives them to welcome Jesus, & those He sends.

Lack of love drives Judas to betray the master!

As far as the other followers could tell, Judas was a committed follower of Jesus.

Prediction of his betrayal 13:21-30

In order that they not be disillusioned, but might trust Him, Jesus predicts several major events related to His death.

As evidence of His omniscience, & as a warning to Judas, He announces His betrayal.

One of Jesus' "followers" had all the others fooled 21-30

Though disciples attempt to discover who would betray Jesus, *no one suspected* that Judas

—even with clue Jesus gave!

He had everybody fooled!

He was trusted.

He stands out as "lover of the purse"

—always careful about money—guarded it carefully!

He wasn't a "lover of the Lord!"

—but no one suspected!

"After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit & testified, 'I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me.'" ²²*His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.* ²³*One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.* ²⁴*Simon Peter motioned to this disciple & said, 'Ask him which one he means.'* ²⁵*Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?'* ²⁶*Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.'* *Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.* ²⁷*As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.* *"What you are about to do, do quickly"* Jesus told him. ²⁸*But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.* ²⁹*Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling*

him to buy what was needed for the feast, or to give something to the poor. ³⁰As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. & it was night."

In spite of Judas' lack of love, & his betrayal, Jesus shows love by reaching out to a sinner who doesn't deserve it!

Jesus extends morsel to Judas—an act of love!

PREPARATION FOR HIS DEATH 13:31-38

Time for Glory Arrives 31-32 *"When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified & God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, & will glorify him at once.'*

After Judas left, the Lord announced that the time had come for Him to glorify the Father

This would be accomplished by His death.

Jesus commands His followers: Love one another 33-35

Jesus is going to leave them; they should continue to evidence their relationship to Him by their love for one another .

Announcement of His departure: "I am leaving you" 33 *"My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, & just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come."*

Badge of discipleship:

What is the most convincing mark that sets people apart as followers of Jesus?

What is the "badge of discipleship?"

In O.T. Abraham taught God's people they were to be set apart by circum-cision—physical evidence demonstrating that Israel was set apart as followers of Yahweh.

Throughout O.T., other signs & evidences were intro-duced that set Israel apart as His followers.

N.T.—"badge of discipleship"

is no longer a physical evi-dence that we've been set apart as followers of Jesus.

Our "badge" is an *internal* indicator.

Jesus lays foundation for new badge of discipleship.

As Jesus prepares for His departure, He issues a "new command"—a new "badge of discipleship" that will set His faithful followers apart, so that those who are watching us can tell that we're His disciples.

Love for one another 34-35 *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

****imitate my example****

That's how people will know you're my followers.

Disciples of Abraham are marked by circumcision.

Disciples of Moses are marked by keeping the Sabbath.

Disciples of John the Baptist marked by John's baptism.

Disciples of Jesus are **marked by love for one another!**

In 1 John, he demonstrates that the world will NEVER love Jesus' followers.

They don't love Him—they won't love His followers!

Our love one another shows that we belong to Him.

LESSONS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS [=> US!]

Jesus' followers show it by **imitating Him: we give up our rights to serve one another!**

God established new *badge of discipleship* for His faithful followers: we love one another!

Only H.S. can produce that badge in us.

Throughout Upper Room Discourse Jesus empha-sizes importance of love & service for one another.

In prayer for His followers, that's His prayer:
that we love one another.

While we may not be naturally attracted to one another, people who are followers of Jesus will be identified by the "badge of discipleship."—*we will love one another!*

While we may not always deserve that demonstration of love, faithful followers of Jesus will show it by loving one another—even *when we don't deserve it!*

Just like He did!

To the extent that Jesus' followers fail to love one another, the world has the right not to believe us!

If we're His followers, we'll love one another!

Satan's followers love *self!*

Jesus' followers love one another!

How are we doing?

Can those watching *us* tell that we are following Jesus?

We may be *believers* in Christ—have eternal life by trusting Him, without caring much about one another!

But can't be faithful, commit-ted followers of Jesus.

His disciples wear their badge!

We love one another!

Do WE really care about/serve one another?