



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Lessons from The Lord

Date: September 28, 2025

Scripture Text: John 13:1-30

Notes:

One of the most famous documents in American history is George Washington's farewell address. It was actually written as his first presidential term was drawing to a close, but when he had agreed to serve a second term, he put it in a drawer until 4 years later. His farewell address was an opportunity for him to share his thoughts, concerns, and desires for the nation. As we get started in John 13, Jesus is preparing His disciples for His upcoming crucifixion and eventual ascension. The Apostle John transitions from Jesus' public ministry which he highlighted in chapters 1-12 to the final hours He had with His disciples in chapters 13-17. This section of the book of John is Jesus' farewell address. These are His parting words before His crucifixion, a time when both He and His disciples would be tested. Let's look at three lessons Jesus shares with His disciples as we get ready to learn the '*lessons from the Lord*'.

I. The Lord on Humbleness (John 13:1-5, 12-17)

Jesus demonstrated what humility looked like ([vss. 1-5](#)), then proceeded to encourage His disciples to do the same ([vss. 12-17](#)). He washed His disciples' feet. This was a job for a lowly servant, yet Jesus did so as a precursor to His voluntarily submitting Himself to the Father's will and going to the cross.

- If you were one of the disciples in the room that night, what would you be thinking as Jesus washed your feet?
- The passage tells us that Judas had already decided to betray Jesus and Jesus knew it. What does it say about Christ to wash even Judas' feet even though He knew he would betray Him?
- In [vss. 15-16](#) Jesus sets an example for His disciples to follow. What was the example?
- What does it look like for Jesus' disciples to wash peoples' feet?
- How does that demonstrate humility?
- How can you wash peoples' feet today ([1 Peter 5:5-6](#))?
- How does humbly serving others allow people to see Jesus in you?



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II. The Lord on Holiness (John 13:6-11)

Jesus proceeds to wash His disciples' feet. Not only does He want them to see an example of humility, but also a representation of holiness. His foot washing was a symbol of spiritual cleansing that comes from being a follower of Christ. The Bible tells us to be holy because God is holy. Our holiness is solely dependent on Christ's holiness. Yet there is still expectation that we live a holy lifestyle day-by-day.

- Once Jesus reached Peter, how did he respond to Jesus' intent to wash his feet?
- Why do you think Peter was hesitant for Jesus to wash his feet?
- Jesus explains to Peter that if he doesn't allow Him to wash his feet, Peter can have no part with Him. Jesus was not merely talking about washing feet, but it's about being cleansed by His redemptive work. How did Peter respond?
- Why did Jesus say Peter didn't need his head and hands washed?
- For those who accept Jesus as their personal Savior, they have been washed all over by His redeeming blood. As we continue through life, we stumble spiritually and need our 'feet' washed from time to time. Our *feet washing* maintenance helps us confess our sins and live in holiness as God intends ([1 Peter 1:14-16](#)). What does it look like for the Christian to 'be holy as God is holy'?
 - How can "*feet washing*" help us to live a holy lifestyle?

III. The Lord on Hypocrisy (John 13:18-30)

The term 'hypocrite' describes the person who pretends to be what he is not. Judas was not a saint who happened to sin, but a sinner posing as a saint. Jesus knew of Judas' plans to betray Him. He dismissed Judas to what he was going to do – quickly. Judas was so close to the Messiah, and yet so far.

- What does it say about Jesus that He, knowing Judas would betray Him that night, still humbly washed his feet?
- When Jesus tells us in [Matt. 5:44](#) to love our enemies and pray for them, how does He set an example for us here?
- How would you describe a hypocrite in the church today?
- How can we guard against hypocrisy in our own life?
- Who do you know that has wronged you, yet needs your love and prayer?
- Why is it important to have a loving, growing relationship with Jesus for us to effectively love others, especially those who are unlovable (like Judas)?
- What are specific things you will do for your enemy this week? How can you pray for them? How will this show them Jesus?