

# ***“HE DWELT AMONG US”***

**THE GOSPEL OF JOHN  
LESSON 14  
Chapter 13**

***“For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”  
John 13:15***

The Gospel of John, more than any other gospel, gives an intimate look at the final meal and hours Jesus spent with His disciples before His arrest. Knowing His time was short, He imparted to them instruction, warning, encouragement and comfort. He also demonstrated His love for them.

**DAY #1** \*Pray before you start your lesson each day.\*

Read **John 13:1-20**. Read these verses again, recording the important facts. Give a title to this section.

Title:

## DAY #2

**\*Note\*** It is important to note that this “last supper” Jesus had with His inner circle of disciples was a feast to celebrate the beginning of Passover (**Matthew 26:17-20**).

- 1) **REVIEW:** Refer back to lesson #3, day #3. In that lesson, we studied the history and meaning of the Passover and the Passover lamb. Read the entire section of that lesson on page 3 of lesson #3. In question 5, you were asked how the Passover lamb is a picture (type) of what Jesus has done for us. Record your answer again. Add any additional insights you might have at this time.
  
- 2) Describe the significance of the Passover in God’s timing as it relates to the timing of the Crucifixion of Christ.
  
- 3) From reading **John 13, verses 1 and 3** we learn that Jesus definitely worked on “God’s timetable” with an eternal perspective.
  - A. Where was He going?
  
  - B. Explain how this affected the way that Jesus lived and especially the things that He did.
  
  - C. We need to realize every day that we also have limited time, and our destiny is to someday go to be with the Father. Stop and pray *right now* that this view point will affect your day and week, in the things you do and the way you do them. Share any thoughts you have on this after you pray.

**\*Quote\*** *“I thank thee, O Lord, that You have so set eternity within my heart that no earthly thing can ever satisfy me wholly.”*

John Baillie (1741–1806)

## DAY #3 CHRIST’S EXAMPLE

**\*Foot Washing\*** Foot washing was a very necessary part of every day life in Palestine. Most travel was done on foot. The roads were dusty and most people wore sandals without socks. A host would sometimes provide a servant to wash his guest’s feet as they entered the home. At other times, a basin of water and towel were provided for each person to wash their own feet.

**Read John 13:4-5**

- 1) We can imagine the atmosphere of surprise and even uncomfortableness when their Lord prepared Himself and then commenced to perform this lowly task. If we knew we only had approximately 24 hours to live, we probably would want our loved ones to *serve us*.
  - A. Share what you learn from the fact that Jesus “having loved His own who were in the world, *He loved them to the end.*” **John 13:1c**
  
  - B. Explain how Jesus’ actions illustrated and emphasized His teachings in **John 12:24-25**.
  
- 2) Read **John 13:14-17** slowly and carefully.
  - A. Foot washing was the lowliest of duties. Jesus said, “I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.” How does His example speak to you? How can *you* model His actions in everyday life?
  
  - B. If we call ourselves Christ’s servants and yet feel that many areas of service are below us, what does this say according to verse **16**? Think about this. Describe your thoughts and insights.
  
  - C. Jesus said, “*If you know these things, happy are you if you do them.*” Do you think this is true? Why?

***“If anyone desires to be the greatest, the same shall be least of all,  
and the servant of all.” Mark 9:35***

- 3) In following Jesus’ example, we need to not only do the deeds of a servant, but we need to have the heart attitude that corresponds. Of course, this doesn’t always come *naturally*. Share how the following scriptures encourage you.
  - A. **Colossians 3:12-14** “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”

- B. **Ephesians 4:32** “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

*We can do great things for the Lord  
If we are willing to do little things for others.*

#### **DAY #4**

Read **John 13:21-38**. Record the important facts, the who, what, when, where, why, and how. Give a title to this section.

Title:

#### **DAY #5 TWO MEN, TWO CHOICES, TWO DESTINIES**

- 1) We read in **John 13:2** that “Satan put it into the heart of Judas” to betray Jesus. Judas had all the advantages, teachings, and opportunities for friendship with Jesus that the other disciples had. But Judas made the choice to be only “*a hearer of the word and not a doer.*” (**James 1:22-24**) Share what you learn from these scriptures that give you insight into the fact that Judas became a vessel of Satan by choice.

#### **A. John 12:4-6**

B. **Mark 14:10-11** (this was done before the Passover)

C. How did the choices of Judas illustrate **Romans 6:16**?

D. **John 13:18**

E. **John 13:27** and **30**

- 2) Judas could have chosen to give up his old ways and become a true disciple. Share how the truths expressed in **Romans 6:17-18** and **22** have changed your life and given *you* a new Master.
  
- 3) *The perfect contrast to Judas!* John the apostle, whom God used to write this gospel, describes himself in **John 13:23**. The title that was most important to him and that described his identity was *“the disciple whom Jesus loved.”* This speaks volumes. Prayerfully ponder and share what you learn from this and how you can apply this to *your* life.

*“Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples,  
whom Jesus loved.” John 13:23*

#### **Day #6 A NEW COMMANDMENT, LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

**\*Quote\*** “The word love is used only twelve times in **John 1-12**, but in **John 13-21** it is used 44 times! It is a key word in Christ’s farewell sermon to His disciples as well as His High Priestly Prayer (**John 17**). The word new does not mean “new in time,” because love has been important to God’s people even from Old Testament times. It means “new in experience, fresh.” It is the opposite of “worn out.” Love would take on a new meaning and power because of the death of Christ on the cross. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, love would have a new power in their lives.” Warren W. Wiersbe

- 1) Read **John 13:34-35**. Notice that Jesus gave a *command* to us, not a suggestion, “to love one another *as* He loved us.”

A. We’re to love *as* we are loved by Him. Describe all the ways that Jesus has loved you.

B. If we love one another in this “Jesus way,” what will others know about us? Why is this true? Explain the effect of seeing this love in action.

C. Can you share an example when you have seen or experienced a Christian putting Christ’s love in action?

*\*Quote\* Love is the one ingredient of which our world never tires and of which there is never an abundance. It is needed in the marketplace and in the mansions. It is needed in the ghettos and in the governments. It is needed in homes, in hospitals, and in individual hearts. The world will never outgrow its need for love.*  
C. Neil Strait

D. **I Corinthians 13:4-8a** gives us a description of the type of love this world so desperately needs. We can not fulfill this in our own strength. But Christ can love *through us* as He dwells in us. Will you allow Him? Prayerfully read these verses, pausing and asking the Lord to expand your capacity to love in the areas you see you need to grow.

- \*Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;
- \*Love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;
- \*Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
- \*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- \*Love never fails.

2) Share three personal lessons, exhortations, or encouragements you have gained from this lesson.

A.

B.

C.

**\*\*MEMORY VERSE\*\*** Commit this precious commandment to memory. Try to share it at least once with someone else this week. This helps you to remember it. Try to obey it, specifically, at least once this week. This helps it become part of your life!

***“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” John 13:34***