

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 22

Introduction

Adults naturally want to be in control, to see the end from the beginning, so that we can selectively choose our own direction and chart our own course in life. If that were indeed possible, we would always choose the smoother path that leads upwards to majestic views from magnificent mountain tops. Never would we decide on our own to trek through dark ominous valleys or walk dilapidated roads fraught with potholes that might cause our unexpected demise. Jesus, however, lived each day with the full awareness that He had come to die: "I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished" (Luke 12:50).

Throughout the remainder of our study of *Simply Jesus*, we are given a close up in the Gospels of how Jesus spent His last week on earth. The focus of His thoughts and words were not for Himself, but for those whom He had been given. The seed thoughts He had planted in the disciples minds for three and a half years would now explode through their hearts! They would feel the full blow of their meaning, while seeing with their eyes what they had only heard with their ears—He loved them . . . to the end . . . enough to die on a cross.

It is only God's grace that allows us not to see what is up ahead, around the corner. What we as believers must remember is that while we don't know what tomorrow holds, we know who holds tomorrow—the One who holds our times in His loving hands; the One who promises to complete and bring to perfection all that concerns us until He comes to take us home.

Did you know ~

The infinite love of God transcends our finite ability to understand it. The remarkable and wonderful thing about it is that as we walk through this life with Him, He gradually unfolds the mystery, allowing us to perceive and realize experientially the fullness of His love. John 13:1 says, "Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." The word He used in the Greek for *love* is *agapao*, the perfect selfless love that desires the ultimate best for the object being loved. The words "to the end" are not a time reference, but a reach reference. In everything having to do with them, Jesus was more concerned about His disciples than His own suffering. His final words would prepare them for what they would face and enable them to become His vessels to carry His message of salvation to the world!

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
Jesus Models Service	John 13:1-17	
Identifies His Betrayer		Luke 22:1-6; John 13:18-30
Preparation for Passover;	Luke 22:7-30	
The Lord's Supper		
The New Commandment;	John 13:31-38	
Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial		

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: John 13:34-35 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,

4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.

5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

10 Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."

11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"

13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.

14 If then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

Luke 22:7–30

The Lord’s Supper

7 Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.

8 And He sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, we may eat.”

9 So they said to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare?”

10 And He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters.

11 Then you shall say to the master of the house, “The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”

12 Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready.”

13 So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.

14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.

15 Then He said to them, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

16 for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves;

18 for I say to you, ‘I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’

19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

21 But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table.

22 And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to

that man by whom He is betrayed!”

23 Then they began to question among themselves, which of them
it was who would do this thing.

24 Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them
should be considered the greatest.

25 And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who
exercise authority over them are called benefactors.

26 But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the
younger, and he who governs as he who serves.

27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the
table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

28 But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials.

29 And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me,

30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones
judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

John 13:31–38

The New Commandment

31 So when he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified,
and God is glorified in Him.

32 If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself,
and glorify Him immediately.

33 Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the
Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come,’ so now I say to you.

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you,
that you also love one another.

35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

36 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward."

37 Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake."

38 Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times."

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

John 13:1–17

Jesus Models Service

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

John 13:31–38

The New Commandment

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.

Application: How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc.? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

John 13:1–17

Lesson:

Application: _____

Luke 22:7–30

Lesson:

Application: _____

John 13:31–38

Lesson:

Application: _____

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.
