

Daniel Perrin – Lesson 10: The Way, the Truth, and the Life – Sunday, December 1: I Have Given You an Example

1. The lesson on Sabbath afternoon points out that the Gospel of John includes 4 main sections
 - a. The Prologue at the beginning (1:1-18)
 - b. An Epilogue at the end (chapter 21)
 - c. BETWEEN THESE: what Bible students call “The Book of Signs” (1:19–12:50) that lay out the miracles and early witnesses that drew people to believe in Jesus.
 - d. THEN what is referred to as “The Book of Glory” (chapters 13-20).
 - These two central sections of John are connected by Jesus’ 7 “I AM” statements that begin in chapters 6,8,9,10,11 — and conclude in chapters 14,15
2. Speaking in practical terms, in this week’s lesson, we focus on “GOODBYES”
 - a. There can be a lot of emotions involved with Goodbye — especially if it is unexpected / especially if it is unwelcomed /
 - Someone you would not want to leave without saying goodbye to?
 - And there is something you would probably NOT want to leave unsaid?
3. All of **John 13-17** is a conversation between Jesus and His disciples — along with a prayer for them and for us.
 - a. It’s a Farewell conversation
 - b. **John 13:1** – tells us that “Jesus KNEW that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father...”
 - c. **John 13:33-35** – *Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. [Jesus, Himself, KNOWS how little time remains, but they don’t.] You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come,’ so now I say to you. ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*
 - d. It’s a lengthy conversation, not to speed-read OR flip through for the highlights
 - He is preparing them for an earthly life without His PHYSICAL presence
 - He’s giving instructions to be heard by Second Generation Christians (or 80th Generation Christians)
 - e. Jesus takes His time / Talks slowly / Lets His disciples think it over and respond / He responds to THEIR questions / His words are compassionate AND true AND a little painful to to them / BUT SO FULL of assurance / AND He Acts it out
4. **John 13:1** tells us, “...having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”
 - a. END – Gk. *telos* – (cp. Heb. 7:25 saves “to the uttermost”)
 - b. The next verse (VERSE 2) introduces Judas Iscariot as Jesus’ betrayer ...
 - VERSES 18-30 confirm it
 - c. BETWEEN those sections: Jesus DEMONSTRATES the “New Commandment”
 - It’s not a BRAND NEW commandment
 - But it is NEWLY ILLUSTRATED so WE can practice imitating Jesus’ love
 - d. VERSES 3-5 slows us down to watch every movement, looking even into Jesus’ motivation
 - *Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵After 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.*
 - e. Put YOURSELF in the picture

- This was a common job of the day that was assigned to the servants and slaves
 - It was considered a humiliating task
- Because of the dusty paths and their simple sandals, the feet were dirty from the day
 - NOT a symbolic splashing of water / Scrubbing the grime from the cracks in the skin with appropriate respect and gentleness / Careful with the tender spot from a stubbed toe / Attentive to the fresh cut from a rock in the path
- People didn't just go into an evening meal like this (especially a PASSOVER meal) with dirty feet
 - That's OFFENSIVE
 - The arrangements had been made with the needed materials – but no servant was present
- And NO disciple of Jesus pointed out that it was not done – because whoever SEES the need should get up and take care of it
 - There had been hard feelings from some of the disciples recently because of jostling for position
 - Judas had chosen one of the positions considered to be the greatest honor – next to Jesus
 - It was the disciples' role to wash the feet of the master,
 - BUT NO disciple wanted to say, "I'M on the LOWEST rung of the ladder of importance here."
 - Jesus even gave them TIME to let their hearts be softened.

f. Jesus now gets up and gives an example they would NEVER forget – and neither should we

- 24 feet tenderly washed — 24 minutes?
- Looking each one in the eyes – holding each foot – caring about where they would walk
- It was Jesus who inspired these words:
 - *He will guard **the feet** of His saints* – 1 Samuel 2:9
 - *He makes my feet like **the feet** of deer, And sets me on my high places.* – Psalm 18:33
 - *How beautiful upon the mountains Are **the feet** of him who brings good news* – Isaiah 57:2
 - *In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash **your foot** against a stone.* – Psalm 91:12
 - He will not allow **your foot** to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. – Psalm 121:3
 - *For the Lord will be your confidence, And will keep **your foot** from being caught.* – Proverbs 3:26

g. Jesus washed Peter's Feet – who would Deny Him 3 times in the next 12 hours

h. AND Jesus washed Judas' Feet

- **Desire of Ages, p.645.1** – *The disciples knew nothing of the purpose of Judas. Jesus alone could read his secret. Yet He did not expose him. Jesus hungered for his soul. He felt for him such a burden as for Jerusalem when He wept over the doomed city. His heart was crying, How can I give thee up? The constraining power of that love was felt by Judas. When the Saviour's hands were bathing those soiled feet, and wiping them with the towel, the heart of Judas thrilled through and through with the impulse then and there to confess his sin. But he would not humble himself.*

7. Finally, Jesus completes His task and says TO US: **Vs. 12–17** – *“Do you know what I have done to you?”¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Most 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. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*

JOHN 13:1-20 – 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 I 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.

¹⁸ "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.' ¹⁹ Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am *He*. ²⁰ Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."