

Gospel According to John 12:49 – 13:11

New American Standard Version

1 49 “For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father
2 Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to*
3 *what to say and what to speak.* 50 I know that His
4 commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I
5 speak just as the Father has told Me.” 13:1 Now before the
6 Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had
7 come that He would depart out of this world to the Father,
8 having loved His own who were in the world, He loved
9 them to the end. 2 During supper, the devil having already
10 put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, *the son of Simon*, to
11 betray Him, 3 *Jesus*, knowing that the Father had given all
12 things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God
13 and was going back to God, 4 *got up ¹ from supper, and *laid
14 aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.
15 5 Then He *poured water into the basin, and began to wash
16 the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with
17 which He was girded. 6 So He *came to Simon Peter. He
18 *said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” 7 Jesus
19 answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize
20 now, but you will understand hereafter.” 8 Peter *said to
21 Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him,
22 “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” 9 Simon
23 Peter *said to Him, “Lord, *then wash* not only my feet, but
24 also my hands and my head.” 10 Jesus *said to him, “He who
25 has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely
26 clean; and you are clean, but not all *of you.*” 11 For He knew
27 the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said,
28 “Not all of you are clean.”

*Use the suggestions on the back page as a starting point for your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application.***

Observation (What does it say?):

Underline references to Jesus’ relationship to the Father.

Circle references to Jesus’ relationship to His disciples.

Number ¹ the steps (v. 4-5) John mentions as Jesus prepares to wash the feet of His disciples.

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How would you describe Jesus’ attitude as He began to wash their feet?

Picture the scene. Why did John include so much detail? What would you imagine the disciples were thinking at each step of Jesus’ preparation?

How would you describe Peter’s reactions?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

What do you learn from Jesus in this passage that could affect your attitudes and actions?

What do you learn from Peter in this passage that could affect your attitudes and actions?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

- Verses 8-11 are often interpreted as symbolic of justification (“bathed”) and sanctification or daily confession (“only the feet”). Is that what Jesus intended?
- Is there anything in the text to indicate where Peter was in the foot-washing sequence (first, last, unknown)? How might that affect your understanding of his reaction?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them. – J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)