

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)**Lesson Plan:** Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet**Learning Goals:** Students should recognize the humility and servanthood demonstrated by Jesus and apply it to the way followers are supposed to model faith today.**Question:** If you could pay somebody to do something you can't stand doing, what job would you give her? What job do you hope you never have to do on a missions trip or elsewhere?

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

Read John 13:1-38 (video)**ALWAYS remember the Context:**

- Ritual Cleansing
- What would make a person unclean?
 - contact with blood
 - contact with a dead body
 - contact with a person with leprosy
 - contact with bodily (sexual) fluids
 - contact with foreigners or anything that belonged to a foreigner (unclean up to a week)
 - contact with someone else who was unclean (unclean up to a week)
 - having the shadow of an unclean person fall on you (unclean for a day)
- The only way to cleanse oneself from these impurities is through a ritual bath. Archaeologists have found 150 ritual baths around the temple area (public, used for a charge). Wealthy individuals had private baths at their homes. These were not for hygiene purposes, but for spiritual cleansing.
 - Foot washing: people in Jesus' day typically wore sandals. There were very few "paved" roads, most of them covered in mud or thick dust. By the end of a journey, their feet were pretty gross - covered with everything - dirt, food, callouses, and animal waste.
 - Inside the typical home of the first-century, there were large pots of water, a pitcher, and a basin. There was a towel on the wall. When you entered a home, you would remove your sandals and a servant would pour water over your feet. It was performed by only the lowest servant. In many cases, Jewish servants were not required to perform this task (only Gentiles).

Humility: Not the same as having low self-esteem. It is a proper reckoning of ourselves in comparison to God.**Jesus' Action**

- In washing the disciples' feet, Jesus is demonstrating that in order to be the greatest, one must humble oneself and serve others. If you want to be first, then be last. If you want to be highest, be lowest.
 - This is an illustration of the Beatitudes and the "up-side-down kingdom"
 - There may be some connection to baptism here.
- Jesus commands that the disciples also do the same - wash one another's feet (not washing Jesus' feet - he is deserving of that).

- Most of us are surrounded by opportunities to serve others if we will just look for them. (performing a menial chore, meeting the needs of others before our own, looking for jobs no one else will do and doing them cheerfully)

Judas

- This is the only mention of Satan in John's gospel
- Lessons Judas teaches us:
 - One can attend all of the religious meetings and still be far from Christ
 - In life, there are lost opportunities
 - There will be hypocrites in the church
 - It is dangerous to put money above everything else.
 - Satan is at work among the Lord's people.

The Defining Mark (How do others know that we are Christians?)

- Pins on our lapels, chains around neck (cross), special haircuts (monks), posters on our wall, screensavers, bumper stickers, wristbands, t-shirts, Christian symbols, etc.
 - Problem: these are totally external and superficial
- How should people know? Our love for one another (vs. 34-35)
- We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

Lesson Summary/Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Humility
- What are three lessons we can learn from Judas?
- According to Jesus' statement, what is the defining mark for Christians of their faith?