

# The Passion Prologue

## (A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #52)

### John 13:1-5

- A. It is not easy to watch Jesus wash feet. Nor was it easy for Jesus
- B. We now move from the noise of the world into a quiet place of “*his own*”
- C. These first five verses of John 13 serve as a prologue to Jesus’ Passion
- D. John puts our text in proper time frame: “*It was just before the Passover*” (13:1)

#### A DISCIPLE KNOWS LOVE (13:1b)

- A. The first of three “strong” verbs is “*Jesus knowing the time had come...*”
  - 1. Jesus impending death is a planned event by Jesus himself for the world
  - 2. This is the weekend of Jesus’ descent into suffering, death, and the grave
  - 3. There is a *passing over* of the world’s sin into oblivion because of Christ’s victory on the cross
- B. The second of three “strong” verbs is “*Jesus...having loved...*”
  - a. In the half of John’s Gospel, he focuses on *Life and Light*
  - b. In John 13-17, his focus is on *Love*
- 2. The disciples will be the way the Risen Lord will reach out into his world
- C. The third of three “strong” verbs is “*Jesus...loved them to the finish*”
  - 1. This is the same word Jesus used on the cross: It has been finished!
  - 2. Jesus would bring the Father’s love to a perfect “finish” on his Cross
    - “*As the Father has sent me, so I send you, and when he had said this he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Welcome the Holy Spirit’*” (John 20:19-23)
    - “*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...*” (John 3:16)
  - 3. These words are for disciples to receive as an inheritance, to be grateful for, and to engage as our mission

#### A DISCIPLE KNOWS REALITY (13:2-3)

- A. Jesus had to come because we live in a messed up world...
- B. The focus is on the phrase “to betray” - which is lit. “*to hand over*”

1. It’s the word used in the Old Testament for God’s great historic acts of “*handing over*”

2. There are actually multiple “*handovers*” through this passion text

C. Meanwhile, the devil is still hard at work in disciple’s lives

- 1. Disciples should be aware of his constant seductions and of God’s protections
- 2. Ultimately, Satan does not defeat Jesus; Jesus defeats Satan

#### A DISCIPLE KNOWS SERVICE (13:4-5)

A. Three great moments are highlighted in the third verse:

- 1. The “whence” is knowing he came from the Father...
- 2. The “whither” is knowing he is going back to the Father
- 3. The “mission” is knowing that the Father has “*put all things under his power*”

B. Rising in the middle of dinner, Jesus underscores this is different than the customary footwashing performed by servants

- 1. The disrobing and re-robing is a picture of Jesus’ entire ministry
- 2. This is the Gospel; Jesus lays down his life to take it up again (John 10:17)

#### A DISCIPLE FOLLOWS JESUS (13:5)

A. And Jesus commences to washing his disciples’ feet

- 1. The disciples should be washing his feet
- 2. These disciples...do they deserve to have their feet washed?
- 3. No disciple deserves to have Jesus wash his feet

B. “*Don’t wash their feet Jesus, tell them to wash yours*”

- 1. Why? Do we think it’s appropriate that God is on his hands and knees?
- 2. Do we object because we don’t want to see God washing our feet? Or do we object because he might ask us to do the same?