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John 13

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

John 13.

Topics.

- Jesus washes the disciple's feet.
- He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.
- Whoever receives the one I send receives me?
- Satan entered into Judas.
- Love one another: just as I have loved you.
- A new commandment.

The previous chapter: the previous chapter was six days before the Passover, Jesus went to Bethany and Mary anointed his feet and wiped them with her hair, a large crowd took branches of palm trees and cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is the Lord, the King of Israel! Many of the authorities believed in Jesus, but for fear of the Pharisees did not confess it.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

THE BEGINNING OF THE LAST SUPPER

JOHN 13:1-3

1

Jesus washes the Disciples Feet.

- **John 13:1-3:** Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own (the apostles) who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil (diabolos) had 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 back to God.

Passover was held on the (14th) day of the first Jewish calendar month Nisan (also called Abib). It was the exact day God led Israel out of Egypt (called the house of bondage). For further information see the titles:

- Passover in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Devil: (diabolos) the word devil means, false accuser in this context it refers to the religious authorities of Jesus generation. Two days prior to the Passover the chief priest, Pharisees, scribes and elders held a special council meeting for the sole purpose of planning how to have Jesus killed they were like a roaring lion seeking how they could have him devoured (murdered). It was the chief priest, Pharisees and scribes by offering Judas thirty pieces of silver who put the idea of betraying Jesus into the heart of Judas. For further information see the title:

- Serpent, Devil and Satan.
- In, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Jesus came from God and went to God: verse three in the English Standard Bible says:

- He had come from God and was going back to God.

Whereas the King James Bible says:

- He was come from God and went to God.

The King James version is a better translation since it uses the words, "Went to God" whereas the English version by using the words, going back to God," Implies Jesus pre-existed with the Father prior to the angel Gabriel coming to Mary and her miraculous conception of Christ by God's creative power. Came from God means Jesus was born of God and sent by God Jesus knows that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father (v1) so the words went to God simply means he is about to be resurrected from the dead and ascend into heaven to be with God his heavenly Father. For further information see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity).
- In Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

JOHN 13:4-17

Jesus Washes the Disciple's Feet.

- **John 13:4-17:** Jesus rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place (at the supper table) he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, 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 also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

When Jesus said to Peter, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me" (v8) he was not simply talking about the literal washing of Peter's feet, but to fully trusting in Christ for righteousness that leads to eternal salvation contrasted to trusting in works of the flesh and self-effort. It is about repenting and surrendering one's life to Christ and through faith in him being washed clean of all sin and receiving God's forgiveness.

I have given you an example, you also should do as I have done:

Jesus does not mean that Christians in the 21st century in the Western world should be literally washing each other's feet, in his day it was a common and practical custom to wash your feet, especially if a person was entering someone's house. Remember they did not have green grass, concrete paving and tar-sealed roads, their feet got very dirty and dusty as they travelled (mostly on foot) so washing the feet was the courteous thing to do before entering someone's house. The principal Jesus is teaching in this action is that those following Christ and serving him should serve those they are ministering to and be prepared to humble themselves for them. They should not think they are so important that it is too lowly for them to eat or serve the common man or woman, the principal is about humility and being humble.

He who ate my Bread has lifted his Heel against Me.

- **John 13:18-19:** I am not speaking of all of you I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.

The wonder and splendour of Bible prophecy: Jesus words to his apostles, "You may believe that I am he," refer to the seed of the woman spoken of in (Gen. 3:15) in which the LORD says:

- He will put enmity between the serpent and the woman, and between the serpent seed and the woman's seed; the woman's seed shall bruise the serpent's head, and the serpent's seed will bruise the heel of the woman's seed.

NOTE: bruising the heel symbolizes a far lesser wound than a bruise to the head.

When Jesus said, "You may believe that I am he," he was telling the apostles that he is the seed of the woman in (Gen. 3:15). In the wider view of this amazing prophecy the woman can be seen as the nation of Israel or Mary and the woman's seed of course refers to Jesus himself but by extension includes faithful Israel and all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ while the serpents seed embraces the Arabs who opposed the people of Israel, but by extension includes everyone that does not believe in God and is opposed to His will. Jesus words:

- He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.

Clearly show that during the time of Christ the seed of the serpent was Judas Iscariot, the Pharisees, scribes and priests who Jesus called serpents and vipers (Matt. 3:7) (Matt. 12:34) (Matt. 23:33). Jesus bruised their head in the sense that Judas Iscariot killed himself and the resurrection of Jesus did away with the power and control the religious heads (the Pharisees, scribes and priests) had over the people of Israel and at the same time destroyed their entire religious system because ever since Christ's resurrection no-one needs a human priest to intercede for them because the Lord Jesus Christ is the perfect and eternal High Priest to all who belong to him. Bruising the heel of the woman's seed refers to Jesus death but his wound was only temporary because he rose again to eternal glory to establish an even greater Kingdom. Since it was the crucifixion that revealed the seed of the serpent bruising the heel of the seed of the woman and it was the resurrection that revealed the seed of the woman bruising the head of the serpent's seed Jesus understood that the apostles would only understand what he was saying after his death and resurrection. The ultimate bruising of the serpent's seed will be when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. For further information see:

- Genesis 3:15 (Seed of Serpent and Woman).
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

NOTE: the words, "You may believe that I am he," Also means that he is the Christ the one Moses said was to come and the one who all the prophets spoke of.

- **John 13:20:** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

The ones Jesus sent were the apostles therefore whoever receives the apostles would also receive their teachings. Jesus is saying receiving the apostles and their teachings is the same as receiving Christ. In the book of Acts, it is recorded that three thousand received Peters word and were baptized then they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer (Acts 2:41-42). By extension Jesus is saying to all future generations that receiving Christ comes by receiving those who belong to him and who are proclaiming the apostle's teachings.

JOHN 13:21-31

Jesus tells the Apostles one of them well betray Him.

- **John 13:21-31:** After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you (apostles) one of you will betray me." ²²The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. ²³One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus, ²⁴so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan (Satanas) entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." ²⁸Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. ³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.

The words, "One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved" (v23), does not mean that Jesus only loved one of the disciples, but that it was one of the disciples at the table that Jesus loved perhaps contrasting the faithful and loyal eleven to Judas the betrayer. In the previous chapter Jesus washed the apostle's feet and now they are back at the Supper table and Jesus is troubled in his Spirit because he knows Judas is about to betray him.

NOTICE: not one of the other eleven had any idea of what Judas was about to do, he is a perfect example of someone who is in the ministry for their own gain, he, prayed, ate and fellowshiped with the disciples, he shared in the ministry and walked with Christ and all the time was deceiving those who he was with (except the Lord).

SATAN ENTERED INTO JUDAS

Entered: (eiserchomai) from Strong's Concordance means, to enter into (literal or figurative), arise, come into and to go in or through.

John says, "The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray him" (v2). Luke says, "Satan entered into Judas" (Luke 22:3), and after Judas had taken the morsel John says, "Satan entered into him" (v27). These verses are often mistakenly used to prove that Satan is an evil powerful angelic creature that has enormous power, but is less powerful than God. The following verses show who the real Satan actually is. In (v2) the devil put the thought of betrayal into Judas' heart and after the sop, Satan entered into Judas (v27). Jesus said, "Have not I chosen you twelve and one of you is a devil" (meaning false accuser and slanderer) (John 6:70). Jesus is saying one of the human apostles is the devil (not a supernatural creature). Satan and the devil are

personifications of everything that is opposed to God externally and in the human heart, they are extremely appropriate words that symbolise the darkness or evil that exists within the human heart. The distinction between the devil (v2) and Satan (v27) may suggest that the former (the devil) was sown by some servant of the chief priest, while the latter (Satan) may indicate complete abandonment to sin (John 12:6). Satan can be seen as the personification of everything that opposes the plans, purposes and promises of God. Judas lack of integrity began long before his betrayal of Christ he was already a thief who carried the money bag of the apostles (John 12:6).

Satan, Peter and Ananias: there is a similar story of Satan influencing a person in the book of Luke. Luke records Jesus saying to Peter, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat" (Luke 22:31). The ones who sifted Peter and caused him to deny Jesus were the men and woman standing with him by a fire in the middle of a courtyard watching Jesus being tormented by the religious authorities of his generation (Luke 22:54-62). Another example of Satan entering the heart of a human is recorded in the book of Acts where we read of a man named Ananias who wanted to appear righteous, generous and be accepted by his Christian brothers and sisters so he lied about what he had done. Peter perceiving, he had lied said to him, "Why hath Satan filled thine heart?" When an individual gives himself or herself over to sin (selfish desire, greed or lying and deceiving to appear righteous etc.), the Bible personifies it as Satan entering into his or her heart (Acts 5:3-4). The word Satan as used in the Bible carries the idea that a thing or deed done is in direct opposition not only to the wellbeing of humanity, but also to God's plans and purposes and God Himself. Matthew and Mark both tell us that:

- Evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness and slander all come from within, out of the heart of man (Matt. 15:19) (Mark 7:21)

Showing that the word Satan and devil are perfect personification of all that is opposed to God and the evil that resides in the human heart and the mind of all mankind. For further information see the titles:

- Devil.
- Satan.

Both titles are in Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

NOTE: on our level of understanding Judas betrayal of Jesus is an act of evil against Christ and in that sense opposed to God, but on a higher level it was in the plans and purposes of God for the salvation of mankind thus much of what we view on a mortal level as evil is on an eternal level bringing about the final eternal plans and purposes of God, He is always Sovereign.

JOHN 13:32-38

Love one another: just as I have Loved You.

- **John 13:32-38:** If God is glorified in him God will also glorify him in himself and glorify him at once. ³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you (apostles) 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." ³⁶Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." ³⁷Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

Jesus glorifies God and God glorified Jesus: the words, "If God is glorified in Christ God will also glorify Christ in himself" (v32) means Jesus by faultlessly manifesting God's character, grace, mercy power and love and by not denying Him even unto death perfectly glorified his heavenly Father and God by resurrecting Jesus to His right hand side in heaven and exalting his name above all other names perfectly glorified His Son.

Where I am going you cannot come: Jesus tells the apostles, "Where he is going, they cannot follow" (v33) obviously he is referring to his death and resurrection, but notice how Jesus address them "Little children." He addresses them this way as a term of endearment and because he knew that they would have no idea of what he meant until he appeared to them after his death and resurrection so in that sense, they were still spiritually little children.

Peter's faith tested: Peter said, He would lay down his life for Jesus (v37), but when it came to the crunch he denied him, sometimes trials and troubles in life are to test the genuineness of our faith, not for the Lord's benefit, but for ours, Jesus knew Peter would deny him, but Peter had no idea. Later Peter says:

- The tested genuineness of our faith is more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire when it is found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:7).

A New Commandment: Jesus spent his life ministering to others and laid down his life for us all, so loving others as he loved us means putting others before ourselves it is about protecting others from harm, physically, financially emotionally and spiritually. The greatest witness the church can have to the lost world is to love one another.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.