

Motherhood: Portrait of a Leader

1. Verses 1-3 list several things that Jesus knew. How would having such knowledge help a person be a better leader? better servant?
2. Discuss the action of washing feet. What does it communicate? Why was Peter so concerned about it? What in our lives causes us to respond like Peter?
3. Discuss Peter's response in verse 9. How does this compare to false ideas about God?
4. What does it mean to be "clean"? How are we clean?
5. What are some ways that we can continue this example as believers?
6. What are some servant-like actions of mothers? Take time to discuss how you can appreciate these actions.
7. Discuss the New Commandment. What is new about it? How does it affect leadership? How is it seen in motherhood?

¹Now 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.

²And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, ³Jesus, 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. ⁶Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

⁷Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

⁸Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!"

Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

⁹Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

¹⁰Jesus 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."

¹¹For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

¹²So 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?"

¹³You 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.

[...]

³¹So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. ³²If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.

³³Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. 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."

Demonstrating Devotion

Read: John 14:7-31

Monday

7-9 — What is Jesus saying about the Father in verse 7? Why do you think Philip didn't "get" it? Think of something about God that took you awhile to "get." What helped you to understand it?

Tuesday

10-14 — What are the two sources of belief (v. 11)? What greater works are we able to do (v. 12)? How should this promise affect your prayer life?

Wednesday

15-21 — How do we show love to Jesus? List some areas that you would like to improve in your love toward Jesus. Are you confident of God's love? How does this confidence affect your life?

Thursday

22-24 — What is the distinction between the world and the followers of Jesus? What comes to your mind when you think about the Father and Jesus making their home with you?

Friday

25-28 — What does the Holy Spirit do for you? What is the difference between the peace of God and the peace of the world? What act by the disciples would show their love (v. 28)? It is hard to see loved ones go to be with the Father; however, we do not want to be unloving by holding them back.

Saturday

29-31 — What was going to change about Jesus' ministry? Why? What does verse 31 mean to you? How can you show the world that you love the Father?
