

The Word

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a division of **10** of those.com

Episode 26

JOHN 11	●	Life (Lazarus is raised by Jesus)
JOHN 12	●	Death (Jesus predicts His death)
JOHN 13 – 17	●	Life for His disciples (in the time between Jesus' departure and His return)
JOHN 18 – 19	●	Death (Jesus' crucifixion)
JOHN 20	●	Life (Jesus is risen)

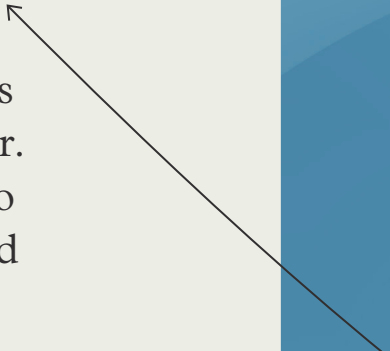
The need to be washed

JOHN 13:1-30

*In the previous episode:
Stubborn unbelief.*

*In this episode:
The love of Jesus
transforms lives.*

¹ It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.



² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

Made clean by Jesus

We are in the final days before the cross and John slows the action right down. Chapters 13 to 16 record a private conversation between Jesus and His closest followers, explaining how His death and resurrection will transform their lives.

Notice that the Passover, remembering God's rescue from judgement through the sacrificial death of a lamb, is drawing ever closer. **(v. 1)**

Jesus loves His followers, even to the point of dying for them. **(v. 1)**

Look at what we're told Jesus knows.

- He knows He will soon complete His work and return to His Father. His 'hour' has come; the cross is near. **(v. 1)**
- He knows He is in control - the Father has put Him in charge of everything. **(v. 3)**
- He knows that God had sent Him and God will welcome Him home.

Now what will this knowledge lead Jesus to do?

⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel round his waist.

⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?'

⁷ Jesus replied, 'You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand.'

In the middle of dinner, Jesus gets up, takes off His robe, takes a towel, bends down and starts to wash His followers' feet. **(v. 4)**

Why is this so shocking?

- This was the lowest servant's job. It is like a queen or president rolling up their sleeves and washing someone's filthy feet.

Peter finds this unthinkable! How can the one described as having all things under His power now strip and bend down to wash his dirty feet? **(v. 6)**

The disciples don't understand what Jesus is doing. But they will later, after His death on the cross. **(v. 7)**

⁸‘No,’ said Peter, ‘you shall never wash my feet.’

Jesus answered, ‘Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.’

Why doesn't Peter want Jesus to wash his feet?

- Peter knows who Jesus is. As far back as chapter 6 he had already said, *'We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God! (6:69)*

But Jesus says that Peter cannot be right with Him unless He is washed.

What is this act of washing really about?

- It's a picture of what Jesus will do on the cross by washing away the sins of all who put their trust in Him.
- This helps us understand what goes on between Peter and Jesus. Expressed differently: 'If I do not wash you (save you) you have no future with me!'

We can't be right with Jesus until He makes us clean. It's not about what we do, it's about what He has done. We all start helpless, bringing only our sin. His grace is a free gift.

⁹ ‘Then, Lord,’ Simon Peter replied, ‘not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!’

¹⁰ Jesus answered, ‘Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.’

¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.