

Worksheet #14: John 13:1–38

Summary: Chapter 13 opens the second major portion of John's gospel. In this section, Jesus' focus turns from public confrontation with the Jews to private investment in his disciples to prepare them for what is to come. Rather than performing signs, Jesus is now focused upon the cross. Chapters 13–17 emphasize the preparation of the disciples. In chapter 13, Jesus demonstrates his love to them in the footwashing (13:1–17), after which Judas departs (13:18–30). After Judas' departure, Jesus introduces the theme of his own departure, which introduces his Farewell Discourse (13:31–38).

Abbreviated Outline¹ (current passage in bold):

- I. INTRODUCTION: THE WORD MADE FLESH (1:1-18)
- II. THE BOOK OF SIGNS: THE SIGNS OF THE MESSIAH (1:19-12:50)
 - A. *The Forerunner and the Coming of the Messiah (1:19-51)*
 - B. *The Cana Cycle: Jesus' Inaugural Signs and Representative Conversations (2:1-4:54)*
 - C. *The Festival Cycle: Additional Signs amidst Mounting Unbelief (5-10)*
 - D. *Final Passover: Climactic Sign, the Raising of Lazarus, and Other Events (11-12)*
- III. THE BOOK OF EXALTATION: PREPARING THE NEW MESSIANIC COMMUNITY AND THE PASSION OF JESUS (13-20)
 - A. ***The Cleansing and Instruction of the New Covenant Community, including Jesus' Final Prayer (13-17)***
 - 1. **Cleansing the Community (13:1-30)**
 - a. **The Footwashing (13:1-17)**
 - b. **The Betrayal (13:18-30)**
 - 2. **The Farewell Discourse (13:31-16:33)**
 - a. **Jesus' Departure and Sending of the Spirit (13:31-14:31)**
 - b. Jesus the True Vine (15:1-17)
 - c. The Spirit and the Disciples' Witness to the World (15:18-16:33)
 - 3. Jesus' Parting Prayer (17)
 - B. *The Passion Narrative (18-19)*
 - C. *Jesus' Resurrection and Appearances, Commissioning of Disciples (20:1-29)*
 - D. *Concluding Purpose Statement (20:30-31)*
- IV. EPILOGUE: THE COMPLEMENTARY ROLES OF PETER AND THE BELOVED DISCIPLE (21)

¹ Adapted from Andreas Köstenberger, L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, The Cross, and The Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament* (Nashville, Tenn: B & H Academic, 2009), 307–308.

Interpretation: *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. How does 13:1 state the theme for John 13–17? What elements in this verse remind us of prior statements in the gospel? What is “the end” that John describes here (cf. 19:30)?

2. Notice the sequence of details presented in 13:2–3. How do these three facts help us to understand Jesus’ act in 13:4–5?

3. Consider the conversation between Jesus and John in 13:25–26. Based on the information in 13:27–30, what does this suggest about John’s understanding at the time?

4. In what sense could Jesus claim to be glorified “now” (13:31)?

5. What is “new” about the command Jesus gives in 13:34–35 (cf. 1 John 2:7–8)?

Application: *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

6. According to Jesus’ explanation in 13:12–17, his followers are blessed when they “do” that which they “know” as a result of the footwashing. What are some ways you could exercise humility in your own life?

7. What does this passage tell us about Jesus? How does it help us to understand “his place in the sweep of redemptive history”?²

8. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

9. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?

² D. A. Carson, *The Gospel according to John*, Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991), 102.