

JOHN (SO THAT YOU MIGHT BELIEVE)

Maundy Thursday
by Amy Norman (02/04/2026)

Part A: John 13:1-3

Part B: John 13:3-17

Part C: John 13:33-14:7

THE HOUR HAS COME | JOHN 13:1-3

ஹேகா இரூட்டா | 时候到了 | வேளை வந்துவிட்டது

Jesus *knows* the hour has come.

- Everything - his public ministry and signs - have been building up to *this* moment.
- Again and again Jesus referred to *this* hour.
At the wedding in Cana, he told his mother his hour had not yet come.
In his teaching, he pointed ahead to the time coming.
His enemies failed to seize him, for his hour had not yet arrived.
- But *now* the hour is here.
The threats and schemes against Jesus have been building momentum.
This hour will lead to his death. *Verse 1...*

Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. *verse 1*

The hour has come, for the betrayal of Jesus is underway.

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

- The teachers of the law have tried to entrap him. The Jews failed to stone him.
The Chief Priest and Pharisees have just met, plotting to take his life.
- Many have wanted to get rid of Jesus.
But the one who sets into motion this final hour is one *of his own*.
- It's not like Judas was misinformed about who Jesus is. *He has been there with Jesus all along.*
- He tasted the wine Jesus turned from water,
distributed the bread Jesus multiplied,
rowed through the storm that Jesus walked through,
and just had dinner with the man, Lazarus, who Jesus raised from the dead.
- When Jesus later tells his disciples that *one of them* will betray him - it doesn't make sense.
The disciples stare at each other, at a loss to know which of them he means.
- But because the hour has come,
darkness and evil are closing in on the light of the world,
using *any means* and *any one* possible.

3

The hour has come, but it is part of God's plan.

- The devil is at work against Jesus,
but even in this moment, as forces collude together to eliminate Jesus,
Jesus is still in control.
- *All things* - including his betrayal, his arrest, and ultimately his death,
remain firmly under his power.
- Jesus is not unmoved by this intimate betrayal,
but equally he is not powerless.
- This hour is not a sign Jesus has been out-manouvered.
But it is an unfolding of the Father's plans.
From the very beginning Jesus has known about this hour.
It is for this hour that Jesus has come.
- He willingly enters it.
His betrayal is underway. The cross looms closer.
And we see how *in this hour* he will love his own to the end.

4

UNLESS I WASH YOU, YOU HAVE NO PART WITH ME | JOHN 13:3-17

내가 너를 씻어주지 아니하면 너는 나와 상관없다 | 我若不洗你, 你就与我无分
| நான் உன்னைக் கழுவாவிட்டால், என்னிடத்தில் உனக்கு பங்கு இல்லை

Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.

- Jesus kneels before his disciples, takes their grimy and dusty feet, and washes them clean.
- It is a foretaste of what is coming, a tangible expression of just *how* Jesus will love them to the end.
- In the first century, washing the feet of guests was a sign of hospitality, but it was a task reserved for the lowest of the servants.
- But here is *their teacher*, lowering himself before them, taking the place of a servant, to serve them!
- On this final night with his disciples, Jesus didn't just *tell them* he loves them. But he *shows them* his sacrificial love as he serves them.
- Jesus doesn't begrudge serving them, he doesn't balk at the dirt and filth that has accumulated on their feet, he doesn't ask them to clean themselves up first, or even exclude the betrayer, but Jesus serves them as they are.
- It seems upside down that Jesus should wash them, but in ways they can't yet comprehend, they need it and we need it.

5

We need Jesus to wash us.

- This moment was far more than just a spontaneous act of kindness, Jesus is showing the disciples and us *how* we need him. He tells them:

"Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." *verse 8*

- On the surface, it looks like Jesus is just washing off the dirt and grime for the day, but he is pointing to a type of washing that goes far deeper, a purification that cleanses us from what *really* contaminates us.
- Jesus taught that it wasn't things *outside* that defile a person, but it is what comes *from inside of us* that defiles us. From *our hearts* come evil thoughts and desires.
- We can pick up all sorts of dirt and filth on the outside, but what is really repulsive to God can be out of sight. No amount of washing can cleanse the sin that is embedded in our hearts.
- Peter doesn't seem to understand what Jesus is doing. He goes from rejecting that Jesus should dare wash his feet, to asking for his whole body to be washed.
- But the ultimate cleansing that we need and that Jesus provides is *not* happening now, But Jesus is foreshadowing what is to come.

6

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

- Jesus is preparing the disciples to understand what is to come.
- How he serves them now *points ahead* to how he will ultimately serve and cleanse us through his death.
- The thought of someone kneeling before you to wash your feet or hands may seem uncomfortable, fairly vulnerable even.
But it can be a stark reminder of how willing Jesus is to serve us.
Not just with water, but by laying down his life,
so that we can be perfectly clean.

7

WHERE I AM GOING, YOU CANNOT COME | JOHN 13:3-14:7

내가 가는 곳에 너희는 올 수 없다 | 我所去之地, 你不能去 | நான் போகிற இடத்திற்கு நீங்கள் வர முடியாது

Where I am going, you cannot come.

- Jesus has just told the disciples he will be betrayed. That the betrayer is among them.
And *now* that he is about to leave them.
- Jesus has forewarned them about what is about to unfold,
but they still don't seem to comprehend *the depth of the darkness* closing in on Jesus.
- Peter expresses their confusion, "Lord, where are you going?"
The disciples are already on edge being in Jerusalem.
Last time they were here the Jews tried to stone Jesus.
Peter seems to anticipate that Jesus needs defending.
He brashly claims "I will lay down my life for you."
- But Jesus is clear: "Where I am going, you cannot come."
- The hour has come. This hour is *only for Jesus*.
Death will come to the other disciples, but not this night. And not this *kind* of death.
- The powers of evil and darkness have been gathering, with its target firmly set on Jesus.
The Chief Priests and Pharisees have plotted. The betrayer has been prepared. >

8

The hour is here.

- Jesus is not just about to face *any* kind of death, but the full marshalled power of all sin and evil.
- Where he is going, we cannot go.
Only Jesus can plunge himself into *this* darkness.
And the only one who can overcome the dark, is the Light of the World.
- The disciples are still frightened about Jesus leaving them.
But Jesus directs their hope:
“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me.”
- His assurance doesn't minimise what he will soon face.
Jesus' path *will* take him face to face with death.
But even as they soon see Jesus' arrested, flogged, crucified, and die, they are to *keep* believing *in him*.
- It is by *believing in him*, that even in this darkest hour they will know the way.
- Thomas still seems confused by what Jesus is telling them.
“Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”
- Even if they don't comprehend it yet, Jesus is about to give them all that they need. His very life. >

9

- The way through death, the way to the place Jesus is preparing, the way to God is not a set of directions, *but a person*.
- As Jesus leaves them, and will return, they will see in full that *he is* the way and the truth and the life.
- This night it will look like darkness has won, that evil has snuffed out the light of the world, that they have been abandoned.
- But the invitation given to the disciples in their hour of distress, is the same invitation for us today: *believe in Jesus*.
- Soon the light of the world will leave them.
The darkness will look like it is winning.
But *keep believing* in the light of the world.
- Just before they head into the night, Jesus assures them:

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” *John 16:33*
