

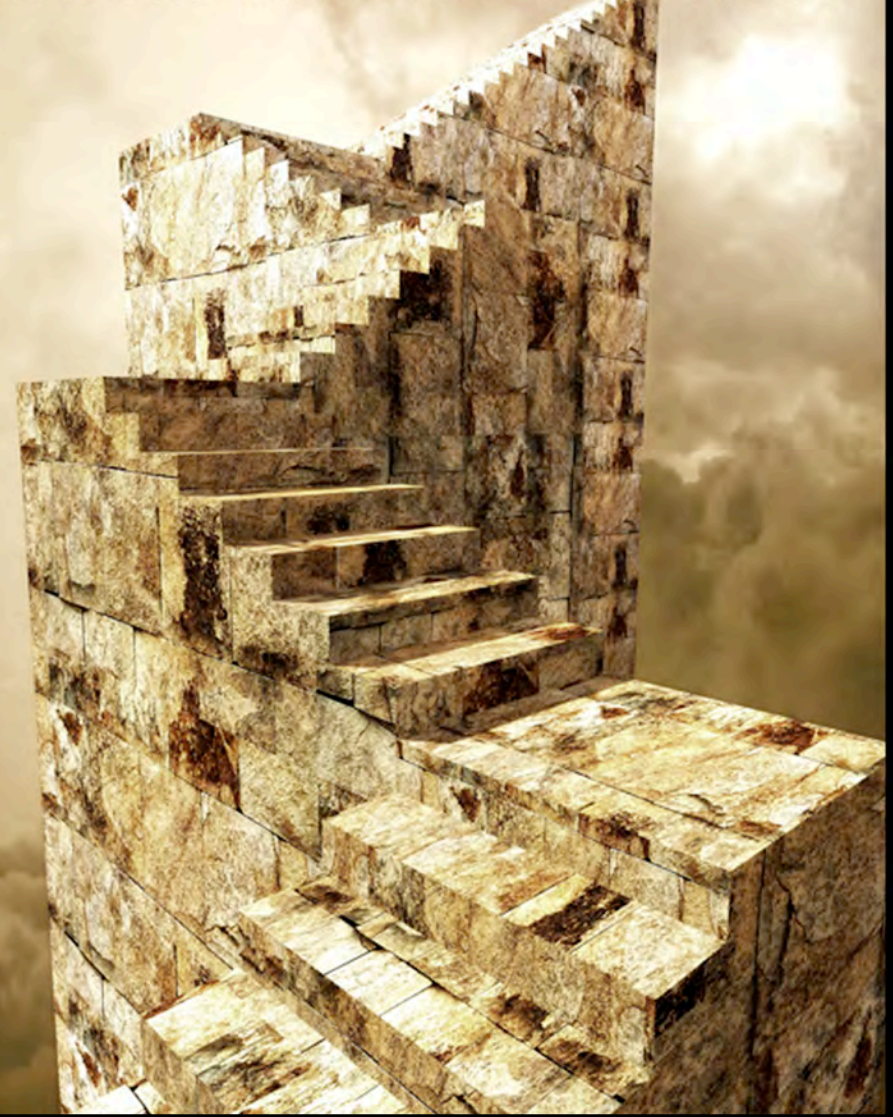
Small Group Questions

In this passage Jesus prepares the disciples in two significant ways: by washing their feet, and removing Judas, a corrupting influence, from their midst.

1. We all know that the natural order of things is for those in power to be served by those under that power. How does Jesus break that natural order? *Why* does he do it?
2. Jesus asks, "Do you understand what I have done for you?" What had Jesus done for the disciples that evening? What has he done for you?
3. In verse ten, Jesus speaks of being clean in a spiritual sense. This represents that once-and-for-all salvation experience. Have you let Jesus wash you, making you clean? Describe that time in your life.
4. Jesus says Peter does not need a bath (to be saved again) but needs his feet washed (because we still sin). How can you let Jesus wash your feet daily, cleansing you from the things that soil? How does 1 John 1:9 help to guide you in this?
5. What does Jesus tell the disciples to do in response to his example? In what specific way can you "wash the feet" of someone you know? How is a refusal to serve others placing yourself above Jesus? (v.16)
6. Jesus removed Judas from the other eleven disciples so that he could speak to those who were truly his. What needs to be removed from your life so that Jesus can speak clearly to you?
7. How would it feel to be betrayed by a close friend? How do we betray Jesus with our words or by our life-style?

TOP FLOOR DIRECTIVES

LESSONS FROM THE UPPER ROOM



Preparing My Heart

January 30, 2011

Devotional Guide

Monday – Read John 13:1-5

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power. . .so. . . he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples feet. John 13:3,5

A God who serves? How does it feel that Jesus has all power, yet serves you even today? Why is it hard to let Jesus serve you in the way he chooses, rather than the way you want? Thank him for his love and wisdom.

Tuesday – Read John 13:6-11

“You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” John 13:7

How many times is this true in our lives? Spend some time talking to God about the parts of your life you don't understand, and then thank him that he understands and is doing something unique in and through you.

Wednesday – Read John 13:12-17

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. John 13:14

In what ways is it hard to follow Jesus, when it means serving rather than being served? Who does God want you to serve this week, and how will you serve them?

Thursday - Read John 13:18-25

I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me. John 13:21

How can a person like Judas be so close to Christ and yet so far? Does being a member of a Church, going to a Bible study, or being in a Christian School make you a Child of God? What does it mean to be part of God's family? Are you in—or just close? Ask God to help you cross that line once and for all. If you are already his, pray for a friend who needs Jesus.

Friday - Read John 13:26-30

As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. John 13:30

The darkness was not just *around* Judas, it was *in* him. Later, John would write, “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*” 1John 1:7 What in your life has been cloaked in darkness that needs to come into the light. Ask God for his forgiveness now, and commit your way to him.