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~ **The Night that Was Different from All Other Nights** ~

You can learn much more about this story by doing these three things:

1. Read John 13:1-17 and .
2. Discover key cultural and historical insights.
3. Answer the reflective questions.

1. Read the text of the story.

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John 13:1-17 NASB	John 13:1-17 NLT
<p>13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. ² During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, <i>the son</i> of Simon, to betray Him, ³ <i>Jesus</i>, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, ⁴ *got up from supper, and *laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.</p> <p>⁵ Then He *poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ⁶ So He *came to Simon Peter. He *said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter.” ⁸ Peter *said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” ⁹ Simon Peter *said to Him, “Lord, <i>then wash</i> not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.” ¹⁰ Jesus *said to him, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all <i>of you</i>.” ¹¹ For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, “Not all of you are clean.”</p> <p>¹² So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined <i>at the table</i> again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to</p>	<p>13 Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. ² It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. ⁴ So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.</p> <p>⁶ When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”</p> <p>⁷ Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.”</p> <p>⁸ “No,” Peter protested, “you will never ever wash my feet!”</p> <p>Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t belong to me.”</p> <p>⁹ Simon Peter exclaimed, “Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!”</p> <p>¹⁰ Jesus replied, “A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you.” ¹¹ For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, “Not all of you are clean.”</p> <p>¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and</p>

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<p>you.¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.</p>	<p>sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing?¹³ You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am.¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet.¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.¹⁶ I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message.¹⁷ Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.</p>
<p>Luke 22:7-34 NASB</p>	<p>Luke 22:7-34 NLT</p>
<p>⁷ Then came the <i>first</i> day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover <i>lamb</i> had to be sacrificed.⁸ And Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, so that we may eat it.”⁹ They said to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare it?”¹⁰ And He said to them, “When you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house that he enters.¹¹ And you shall say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’”¹² And he will show you a large, furnished upper room; prepare it there.”¹³ And they left and found <i>everything</i> just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.</p> <p>¹⁴ When the hour had come, He reclined <i>at the table</i>, and the apostles with Him.¹⁵ And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;¹⁶ for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”¹⁷ And when He had taken a cup <i>and</i> given thanks, He said, “Take this and share it among yourselves;¹⁸ for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes.”¹⁹ And when He had taken <i>some</i> bread <i>and</i> given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”²⁰ And in the same way <i>He took</i> the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.²¹ But behold, the hand of the one betraying Me is with Mine on the table.²² For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!”²³ And they began to discuss among themselves which one of them it might be who was going to do this thing.</p> <p>²⁴ And there arose also a dispute among them <i>as to</i> which one of them was regarded to be greatest</p>	<p>⁷ Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed.⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, “Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together.”</p> <p>⁹ “Where do you want us to prepare it?” they asked him.</p> <p>¹⁰ He replied, “As soon as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters,¹¹ say to the owner, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?’”¹² He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal.”¹³ They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.</p> <p>¹⁴ When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table.¹⁵ Jesus said, “I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins.¹⁶ For I tell you now that I won’t eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.”</p> <p>¹⁷ Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, “Take this and share it among yourselves.¹⁸ For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come.”</p> <p>¹⁹ He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.”</p> <p>²⁰ After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood,</p>

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<p>²⁵ And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called ‘Benefactors.’ ²⁶ But <i>it is</i> not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who reclines <i>at the table</i> or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines <i>at the table</i>? But I am among you as the one who serves.</p> <p>²⁸ “You are those who have stood by Me in My trials; ²⁹ and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.</p> <p>³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded <i>permission</i> to sift you like wheat; ³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” ³³ But he said to Him, “Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!” ³⁴ And He said, “I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me.”</p>	<p>which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.</p> <p>²¹ “But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray me. ²² For it has been determined that the Son of Man must die. But what sorrow awaits the one who betrays him.” ²³ The disciples began to ask each other which of them would ever do such a thing.</p> <p>²⁴ Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. ²⁵ Jesus told them, “In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called ‘friends of the people.’ ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. ²⁷ Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.</p> <p>²⁸ “You have stayed with me in my time of trial. ²⁹ And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right ³⁰ to eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.</p> <p>³¹ “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. ³² But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.”</p> <p>³³ Peter said, “Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you.”</p> <p>³⁴ But Jesus said, “Peter, let me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.”</p>
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2. Discover key cultural and historical insights

These insights are from Gary Burge – *Jesus and the Jewish Festivals, 51-65*

1. The population of the city would triple – Burge estimates 30,000 to up to 100,000.
2. Two days before the Passover Jewish homes would remove all traces of yeast – everything from bread to beer. Crumbs would be hunted down in every room, even cellars.

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3. The festival was kept for eight days (Lev 23)
4. This was at the same time as the Passover. A man with his son would carry a lamb to the temple. A Levite would inspect it for it could have no blemishes. Its blood was caught in silver or gold bowls which would be thrown at the base of the sacrificial altar while other Levites would sing from Psalm 113-118. The liver and kidneys were removed and burned (Lev 3:3-4) on the altar and the rest was given to the family who would roast it on wooden grills for their Passover meal
5. Families were camped around the city but most would enter into the city and eat. But many, most likely ate throughout the land.
6. The meal was organized around four cups, the eating of bitter herbs, unleavened bread, haroset (apples, nuts, wine), and the telling of the story.
7. After the second cup – Why is this night different from all nights? Why do we eat only unleavened bread?

These insights are from Dr. Daniel Boley, Ph.D. , Religious Education from International Seminary, Plymouth, FL.

1. Cup #1 – The cup of sanctification which set apart the whole evening and the question would be asked – “why is this night different?”
2. Cup #2 – The cup of plagues which lessened their joy. A full cup represented joy. They lessened as they remembered the suffering of the Egyptians.
3. They would take the meal which included the bitter herbs. This is when the dipping took place and Judas was identified
4. At the end of the meal, he took the bread, broke off a piece, and said “This is my body.”
5. The 3rd cup was the cup of blessing or redemption and this is when he said, “This is my blood.”
6. The 4th cup ends the meal and is the cup of praise.

Answer these reflective questions.

What do you think Jesus meant when he said that Peter only needed his feet washed and not his whole body?

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Jesus gave us an example of being a servant and washing the feet of others. In what ways can God's people put this into practice?

During the last supper, the disciples argued again about who was the greatest. How do you think this was possible at such a solemn occasion? What does this say about human nature?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. What does the prophecy say about the New Covenant? How does this change our lives?

Jesus said that Satan was going to sift Peter like wheat. What did this mean? How did it happen? Do you believe you have ever been sifted in your life?

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Jesus told Peter that he wanted him to strengthen his brothers even though he knew he would be sifted like wheat and even though he knew Peter would deny him. What does this say about forgiveness. How does this encourage your life?
