



SPORTS IN FOCUS

With Christ in the Upper Room

John 13:1-14:31

READY

- Imagine having a face-to-face dinner with the Lord Jesus Christ. What kinds of topics would you want to discuss with Him? Explain why.

SET

Context of John 13:1-14:31

In these chapters leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord, John's record looks at Jesus devoting Himself to His own disciples. While the chapters 1-12 focus on the rejection of Jesus by the nation, chapters 13-17 (commonly called the "Upper Room Discourse" by scholars) center on the handful of people who did receive Him. Beginning here in chapter 13, Jesus shifts completely from public ministry before the masses to private ministry before a few faithful followers.

Keys to Text

Footwashing: The dusty and dirty conditions of the region necessitated the need for footwashing. Although the disciples most likely would have been happy to wash Jesus' feet, they could not conceive of washing each other's feet. Footwashing was reserved for the lowliest of the servants. When Jesus moved to wash their feet, they were shocked.

GO

Read John 13:1-14:31

1. What spiritual lessons was Jesus trying to teach His followers by washing their feet? Was He successful? How do you know?
2. What is the mood surrounding this last supper? Identify all the emotions that are described (13:1-38).
3. How did Jesus attempt to comfort His confused disciples (chapter 14)? What assurances did He give them?
4. Based upon Christ's answer to Judas (not Iscariot) in 14:23, what new insights do you see regarding the importance of obedience?
5. How does the hope of heaven encourage you? How does that truth affect how you live now?
6. Are there any specific commands of Christ you have been overlooking or ignoring? How can you show your love for Christ this week by obeying?

SPORTS IN FOCUS OBEDIENCE

It is tempting to compromise our commitment when the cost becomes too high. But the fact that Christians are sometimes disobedient, does not alter the truth that the character of the true disciple is manifest in obedience. Although imperfect obedience is inevitable because of the unredeemed flesh, the basic desire and life-direction of the true Christian is obedience to the Lord.

Whether it's the desire to scream at the referees for a bad call or give your coach the stink-eye look when you're benched or corrected for the wrong behavior, it's important to remember that we are called to "be like Christ." While our imperfect obedience is never to serve as an excuse for our bad behavior, it's important to remember that when we do sin we have Savior; a mediator that took the punishment for our sins and gave us His perfect obedience. We must never forget during competition that we need a mediator. There isn't a moment when we don't need Christ. In light of the Father's holiness and my sinfulness, I cannot approach Him directly apart from Christ.