

# John 13-14 reader's theater and choral reading

## Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet at Passover

CHARACTERS: Jesus, John, Peter, Thomas, Phillip, Judas

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 6 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 13-14

JOHN: Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world to the Father.

PETER: Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

JOHN: Jesus got up from Passover supper, laid aside His robe, took a towel, and tied it around Himself.

PETER: Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him.

JOHN: He came to Simon Peter, who asked Him,

PETER: Lord, are You going to wash my feet?

JESUS: What I'm doing you don't understand now, but afterward you will know.

PETER: You will never wash my feet—ever!

JESUS: If I don't wash you, you have no part with Me.

PETER: Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.

JESUS: One who has bathed doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you.

JOHN: (*aside to audience*) Jesus knew who would betray Him. This is why He said,

JESUS: You are not all clean.

PETER: When Jesus had washed their feet and put on His robe, He reclined again and said to them,

JESUS: Do you know what I have done for you? You call Me Teacher and Lord. This is well said, for I am. So if I,

PETER: Our Lord and Teacher,

JESUS: have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done for you.

PETER: (aside) That is the job for the lowest servant.

JESUS: I assure you: A slave is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I'm not speaking about all of you; I know those I have chosen. But the Scripture must be fulfilled:

JOHN: Which scripture?

JESUS: The one who eats My bread has raised his heel against Me. I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He.

JESUS: I assure you: Whoever receives anyone I send receives Me, and the one who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

JOHN: When Jesus had said this, He was troubled in His spirit and testified,

JESUS: I assure you: One of you will betray Me!

JOHN: The disciples started looking at one another—uncertain which one He was speaking about.

PETER: One of His disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining close beside Jesus.

JOHN: Simon Peter motioned to me to find out who it was He was talking about.

PETER: So he leaned back against Jesus and asked Him,

JOHN: Lord, who is it?

JESUS: He's the one I give the piece of bread to after I have dipped it.

JOHN: When He had dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot's son.

PETER: After Judas ate the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Therefore Jesus told him,

JESUS: What you're doing, do quickly.

JOHN: None of us reclining at the table knew why He told him this.

PETER: Since Judas kept the money-bag, some of us thought that Jesus was telling him to buy what we needed for the festival.

JOHN: or that he should give something to the poor.

PETER: After receiving the piece of bread, Judas went out immediately.

PETER and JOHN: (*in unison*) And it was night.

JESUS: Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him.

JOHN: What do you mean?

JESUS: If God is glorified in the Son of Man, God will also glorify Him in Himself and will glorify Him at once.

THOMAS: What did you mean when you told the Jews that where you are going we cannot come?

JESUS: Children, I am with you a little while longer. I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

PETER: Lord, where are You going?

JESUS: Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you will follow later.

PETER: Lord, why can't I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You!

JESUS: Will you lay down your life for Me? I assure you: A rooster will not crow until you have denied Me three times.

THOMAS: We don't know where You're going. How can we know the way?

JESUS: I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you know Me, you will also know My Father. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.

PHILIP: Lord, show us the Father, and that's enough for us.

JESUS: Have I been among you all this time without your knowing Me, Philip? The one who has seen Me has seen the Father. In a little while the world will see Me no longer, but you will see Me

JUDAS (*not Iscariot*): Lord, how is it You're going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?

JESUS: I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe. Get up; let's leave this place.