

Peter During Holy Week in Jerusalem**Mark 11:1-11, 22-25; 13:1-37; Luke 22:7-20; John 13:1-17, 21-30**

Memory Verse: *“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.”*
John 13:14 (ESV)

Background Helps:

In our survey of Peter's life we have arrived at the events of Holy Week. In your introduction, you may want to sketch *briefly* for your students the story of Palm Sunday and other scenes leading up to the Passover meal (the Last Supper), which took place on Thursday evening. Then concentrate your lesson on the foot-washing scene in John 13. Ask one of your students to do some background reading on the custom of foot-washing during New Testament times and to be ready to share that information at the appropriate spot in your lesson.

Lesson Helps:

A possible lesson aim: My students will learn about the dramatized parable of Jesus' washing his disciples' feet (especially Peter's), so that they will submit to the Lord's cleansing in their own lives.

During his ministry on earth, Jesus taught many lessons to his disciples through parables. Normally, these parables were stories that Jesus' told. In the case of the foot-washing, it would seem that he acted out the parable, that is, he dramatized the lesson for his disciples.

The foot-washing taught the disciples several lessons, for example, (1) the humility of Christ himself and (2) the humble service that his disciples were to perform for each other. However, there is another lesson that Jesus taught, especially to Peter, in the exchange recorded in John 13:6-11. Peter learned the necessity of submitting to Christ's cleansing work in his life. The outward cleansing of the water was simply a symbol of the inward cleansing that Jesus does in our hearts. Notice the distinction that Christ made between the initial “bath” of salvation and the daily “foot-washing” of sin-stains (vv. 9-10). Jesus made clear to Peter that, unless he humbled himself and submitted to Christ's cleansing, Peter would have no share in Christ (vv. 6-8).

Applications: If you have *non-Christians* in your class, urge them to submit to the cleansing of Christ's blood for salvation (see, for example, Heb. 9:14 or 1 John 1:7). Show *Christians* in your class the importance of daily cleansing from sin through the practice of confession (see 1 John 1:9).

Methods: In *adult* classes, consider a reenactment of the foot-washing scene with the teacher briefly washing the feet of a student (of the same sex) who has been notified ahead of time. Such a reenactment will make the story very vivid! (Children or youth may not be mature enough to respond to such a reenactment in an appropriate manner!)

Assignment:

 Read John 13:31-38; Luke 22:31-34; Matthew 26:36-46; John 18:1-27; Luke 22:54-62.

 Memorize Matthew 26:41.