

A New Commandment

John 13

by Don Falkos

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Jesus got up from the supper table, took off his robe, and wrapped a towel around his waist. He began to wash the feet of his disciples. Simon Peter objected, but Jesus said, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

Peter said, "Then wash all of me."

"Once you've bathed, you only need to wash your feet." Then to the other disciples Jesus said, "You are clean, but not all of you." He knew the Adversary had already prompted Judas Iscariot to betray him.

Jesus put his robe back on, returned to the table, and said, "I have given you a pattern to follow, one of humble service. Be willing to perform even the most menial tasks for each other.

"The Psalmist says, 'The one who eats my bread has turned against me.' I point this out now, so that when it happens you will believe **I AM** who I say I am."

Jesus was deeply troubled and said, "One of you is going to betray me."

Lazarus was next to Jesus at the table. He leaned over and asked, "Who is it, Lord?"

Jesus answered, "It's the one I give this piece of bread." He dipped the bread in the bowl and handed it to Judas saying, "Hurry. Do what you're going to do." The Adversary entered Judas, and he immediately went out into the night.

Then Jesus said, "I will only be with you a little while longer. Where I'm going, you can't come. So now I'm giving you a new commandment: Love each other, just as I have loved you."

Simon Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I come with you? I'm ready to die for you."

Jesus answered, "You will die for me. But before the rooster crows in the morning, you will deny three times that you even know me."