



Weekly Devotional  
for the  
Third Week of September

# “Love, the *New* Commandment”

John 13

Written by Yvonne Corbin

What’s love got to do with it? **E V E R Y T H I N G!** Can you imagine washing someone’s feet? The feet of someone you know is going to betray you, deny you and desert you? In this chapter, Jesus shows us how. He knew His mission was almost complete, and He wanted to leave an example for His disciples to follow as they spread the Gospel throughout the world. By washing the disciples’ feet, He showed them how to extend themselves beyond themselves. He modeled Servant Leadership. He laid aside His divinity, His position, humbled Himself, and served them.

This message is the same for us today, “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13: 34, 35.

I got an email the other day that ended with this statement, “Keep smiling...it’s one of the best advertisements for God.... It makes people wonder what you’ve got!!”

In the midst of today’s challenges, hurts, pain, economics and emotional crisis, what a simple way to have love one *to* another—**S M I L E!**

**Love God    Build Relationships    Serve the World!**

1.    What verses have caught your attention and why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2.    How does this apply to my life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3.    After reading and thinking, what should you spend time praying about from today’s study?

# “Prepare”

## John 14

Written by Pastor Rollie Simmons

Have you ever noticed how much the lack of preparation can make you nervous, increase your stress, and cause you to take unwise shortcuts and/or lead to silly compromises?

John 14 starts out with the words that are spoken at many funerals. In verse two Jesus declares, "I go to prepare a place for you." Those are awesome words of comfort spoken at many gravesides and memorials. The emphasis is on the fact that since Jesus is going to heaven to prepare a place for us, we need not be overwhelmed with the cares of this world or allow our hearts to be troubled. Jesus not only says He is preparing a place, but He also promises that He will come again and take us to Himself.

I am counting on Jesus' preparations for me. But the greater question is this, Are we prepared for that place and for Him to come again? Our lack of living a prepared life doesn't just have to do with what happens after we die, it has everything to do with how we live.

I have no doubt that Jesus will be prepared, will we?

1. What verses have caught your attention and why?

2. How does this apply to my life?

3. After reading and thinking, what should you spend time praying about from today's study?







# “Missing the Point”

## John 18

Written by Dan Mathews

John 18 starts the course of events that would lead to the crucifixion of Jesus—the moment that had been spoken about throughout the Old Testament. The moment that all of creation was longing for and all of the history and rituals of the Jewish people had been shadowing and pointing towards—the reason Jesus came to earth—the apex of the plan of salvation. And in this moment, Peter completely blows it. During Jesus’ arrest, Peter pulls out his sword, cuts off a guy’s ear, and is prepared to defend Jesus to the death. Jesus rebukes him and heals the man’s ear. Later, rather than standing beside Jesus and fighting until the death, he completely denies knowing Him. There is good news in all of this. Peter responded with fight one time and flight the other, and was wrong both times.

Maybe you have blown it also. Maybe you ran from an opportunity to share the love of Christ out of fear, or maybe you aggressively defend Jesus in a way that hurts people. Either way there is grace. Peter is restored from his sin, and in Acts 2 preaches the first gospel message as part of the church. Three thousand people were saved and the rest is history. Even if you have not been a great example of what it means to be a follower of Jesus, it is not too late, and God is not done with you.

1. What verses have caught your attention and why?
2. How does this apply to my life?
3. After reading and thinking, what should you spend time praying about from today’s study?