

Jesus washes his disciples' feet

John 13:1-15 New International version

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13%3A1-15&version=NIV>

Historical Background

The scene is set in the upper room of a house in Jerusalem, the evening before Jesus was put to death. During the Last Supper he behaved in what to his disciples seemed to be a most bizarre way; he stooped to wash their feet. If you employed a slave, this was a task he performed. Hence the disciples were surprised when Jesus, their teacher, did this. No wonder Peter objected, not realising the significance of what Jesus was doing.

Jesus performed these simple, dramatic and memorial actions to demonstrate the chief characteristic of his ministry, humbly serving others. It was also a vivid reminder to his disciples that they should serve one another and by implication this should be so of their relationships with other people.